

Submission
No 158

**INQUIRY INTO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND
TRAINING IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 14/08/2015

Partially Confidential

I am contributing to this upper house review of TAFE, NSW by the greens as I believe the current funding cuts are affecting many people who will not be given the opportunity to reconnect to training opportunities due to drastically increased costs and cuts to courses.

I was one of those people who “didn’t fit in” to the secondary, educational environment of the day (having moved here from another state) and who enrolled at TAFE and completed a course which led on to a fantastic career in TAFE teaching. My “TAFE training experience” gave me confidence and empowered me to further my studies and complete another 2 degrees. I am still working today and contributing to the NSW economy. If I hadn’t accessed this pathway to further study and career opportunities through TAFE I wouldn’t have achieved this. This is not an isolated story. There are many other people, like me, who have been able to confidently come to TAFE in a supportive and affordable environment and succeed in achieving qualifications and employment outcomes.

Over a long career, I have personally (as have other TAFE staff) supported students with their TAFE courses from all sorts of backgrounds –Aboriginal, disability, Youth at Risk and Non-English speaking Background students. In many, many cases these are the most vulnerable sections of society who other training providers ignore and put in “the too hard basket” or exploit for their own financial gains with little reward, as evidenced in recent media reports.

There is no other RTO, except TAFE NSW which offers a positive environment and assists the most socially and economically disadvantaged and marginalised citizens of NSW. STOP THE CUTS!!