

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 14/08/2015

Partially Confidential

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a school leaver not really knowing what career to follow, I pursued a trade in engineering. My 3 year apprenticeship learning contract with TAFE NSW was a positive character building and skill learning process. I continued with this trade and even went back to TAFE for post-trade training.

In 2010, I started my new career as a teacher at TAFE NSW. During the past 5 years I have witnessed quite a lot of changes. The introduction of (S&S) Smart & Skilled funding being the most significant. I understand and even agree that government departments should be accountable, but when time reductions are made to student hours to accommodate viability of a department the student outcome cannot be the same as prior to smart and skilled.

I.e. in the Riverina Institute of TAFE, prior to S&S, an apprentice received 108 days of formal training. (Certificate III)

Compared to:

S&S, an apprentice who now only receives 65 days of training. (Certificate III)

Trade training does not need a reduction in delivery days but quite possibly an increase due to technology changes e.g. CNC Computer Numerical controlled machines, inverter pulse welders

Hearing accounts from students that their teacher showed them a video and then passed them as competent is ethically and morally wrong. With a reduction of around 40% in face-to-face delivery this may be seen as normal.

These days of delivery have been obtained via the use of a *RIVET* tool in the Riverina institute. Dr John Kaye was involved in a day of action at the Wagga Wagga campus. Dr Kaye showed genuine concerns which was mirrored by students and teachers on the topic of cutting course content and student teacher time.

If Smart and skilled funding is to work effectively in a high cost teaching environment like the trades, time needs to be a factor not just money. With quality tradespeople comes so many positives for communities, with S&S we are putting the safety and quality of Australia at risk.

Smart and skilled I think not.