

**Submission
No 173**

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

Name: Mrs Danielle Wheeler

Date received: 14/08/2015

I am very concerned that TAFE is becoming unaffordable. My husband is retraining after losing his job. He will be paying off his TAFE fees for the rest of his working life. He is 49, earning less than \$25 an hour. My son is interested in IT. A Diploma or Cert IV looks so expensive to him at this point that he can't see any point enrolling.

I am also concerned that dual enrollment for homeschooled students registered with the NSW BoSTES have been dumped. Homeschooled students are now rushing to finish year 10 so they can be issued a completion certificate in order to enrol on TAFE as a means of getting into university. This short-changes their education by two years and sees those students with lower SES parents incur student debts as young as 15 years old. The previous system, where students could complete some subjects at TAFE and rest at home, like those kids enrolled at school was much better, especially for kids who cannot attend school due to anxiety etc.

More funding should be allocated to the Tertiary Preparation Certificate, which provides excellent "second chance education" for people who have fallen through the cracks