

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

**Name:** Mr Jonathan Farry

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Partially Confidential

14<sup>th</sup> August 2015  
Jonathan Farry

To whom it may concern.

I am writing to express my concern regarding the continued failure of NSW Governments to properly fund, support and promote the TAFE system. TAFE provides the quality vocational education that is so essential to the state's economy and provides an avenue for younger people to make a positive contribution to society.

I will illustrate the role TAFE has had in positively shaping the lives of younger people by telling how it has helped me. In 1987 I attempted my Higher School Certificate (HSC) but found the class room environment challenging. I left with my education unfinished, was unsuccessful with a Public Servants' entrance exam and with a direct application to NSW Railways. While the scores in both processes were reasonable, the lack of an HSC however contributed significantly towards my lack of success in securing myself a future. I lived with my family in Broken Hill and at that time in town, other work opportunities were limited.

Looking for options I considered nursing as a career. My Grandmother had been a Trained Sister (Registered Nurse) stationed along the Birdsville Track and my Aunt, was a Registered Nurse working in intensive care. I was once again not eligible to apply for registered nursing due to a lack of formal education.

Instead I applied to become a Trainee Enrolled Nurse at Medowbank TAFE in Sydney. I was accepted into this course even without a HSC and completed my course 1988.

The next year I used my TAFE qualification to be accepted into the Australian Catholic University to study and undergraduate Degree in Applied Science (Nursing) which I completed in 1994. Since that time I have completed two post graduate qualification in nursing and midwifery and worked the last 20 years in essential health specialties like emergency nursing, midwifery, in the state's retrieval services and the Flying Doctors Service In Western Australia.

Through nursing I have made a very real contribution to society and I feel, to a very large extent, I owe this to the NSW TAFE system. The TAFE system is not only an excellent centre for vocational training it has always operated as a safety net, allowing younger people the opportunity of a second chance.

Yours Sincerely

Jonathan Farry