

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

Name: Ms Bronwyn Morris

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Dear Committee

I am writing this submission to appeal against the proposed further cuts to the TAFE sector and to strongly object to the previous cuts, under this government, to this sector.

TAFE provides a cost effective and professional avenue for young people (and all people) to develop valuable skills to a) prepare them to enter the workforce b) prepare them to enter the workforce with a valued qualification. It makes no sense to be cutting this sector at a time when youth unemployment is very high in NSW. The most vulnerable of our young people often find it is the TAFE sector where they get a hand up.

I have worked in the TAFE sector for one year as a teacher. I found it a rewarding and stimulating environment. Many of the young people I was teaching entered TAFE to better prepare themselves for the workforce and gain a necessary qualification. TAFE was an affordable avenue to do this.

I am quite concerned with the ethos of a government which will not support its public sector and wants to herd young people into the private, high cost, sector. This will further marginalise those people who can not afford the cost of private sector certification.

I am a school counsellor and know the value that the TAFE sector has for young people in particular. I can not believe the government would go down this path after boasting about what a great surplus it has. Or should I say 'we' have.

The 'brain drain' from TAFE since 2012, is a sad loss to the sector. TAFE teachers have a reputation as highly skilled. TAFE operates on an ethos of developing practical, hands on, real life skills which students develop to better transition into the world of work. TAFE has built a history of knowledge and skill which is being sadly eroded.

The quality of a private provider's output is firstly measured (by them) by the income to the business. As a model for a positive education system, this is highly concerning. The quality of the the qualification the person comes out with, at such an 'institution' must be questionable. Private providers will pay their staff at a lower rate than the TAFE sector, will try to churn through students and provide piecemeal support for students. Again, our most vulnerable people (along with all those in NSW using this system) will suffer. One just has to google disaster stories (and there is a lot of them) about Australian private providers to see the where your whole model is heading. I deplore the use of our money to support the private providers while the government destroys TAFE.

I make this submission in the belief that you do have students' (and future employers') welfare at heart and instead of breaking the back of TAFE, I submit that the NSW should rebuild this proud, resourceful and successful sector.

Bronwyn Morris