

**Submission
No 132**

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

Name: Mr Michael Wise

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Smart and Skilled has had a devastating impact on students studying language and literacy at TAFE. One of the major concerns is that a student who has an overseas qualification of certificate 4 or above is not eligible to study Basic English under Smart and Skilled subsidised courses. This seriously disadvantages qualified and skilled residents who need stronger English skills to enable them to utilise their job skills.

Another serious misgiving with S&S is the predetermined time frame required to course complete. Different students learn at different rates, and there is no allowance for this. A student is not 'financially viable' to enrol if they take longer than the 6 months that the funding model requires for a teaching section to cover costs. Many students in General Education have little or no education in their countries of origin, and may be illiterate in their first language. They would therefore require a much longer time to build their language and literacy skills to a level to be able to function adequately in Australia.

Thirdly, there are courses in General Education which are umbrella courses (C2 in Skills for Work and Training) where a student can enrol in a 6 month course and focus on a particular language, literacy or vocational skill. Under S&S, a student is only eligible to do one of these courses, and so is not able to build on or broaden their LLN, employability or vocational skills with these courses.