

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

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**Date received:** 1/08/2015

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## Submission to the enquiry on Technical & Further Education

Both my husband and I did our formal training at the end of our schooling at, as it was called in those days, Technical College. He did an accountancy course and I a secretarial course. People did not go on to university as it was too expensive and TAFE was the normal way of education at the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> year. It was affordable and accessible to all, a perfect way to educate young people. I later went on to study dressmaking at East Sydney Tech and with this training clothed my children inexpensively while they were growing up. Again this was an affordable and accessible way for me to learn.

For my children as they finished high school in year 12, they had to look for training in the field of their interest. With my eldest who was unsure of his vocation, TAFE proved the answer and he completed eight years and three associate diploma courses in his chosen field of horticulture. Again it was affordable for a young man starting work and the parents of a large family who supported him. Later he applied to go to university and completed a degree in Landscape Architecture, he was by then mature enough to realise what he wanted and how hard to work to achieve. Without the TAFE training he received he would not have ever managed that degree and the enormous amount of work needed to complete it.

My next two children knew what they wanted and completed school and one went on to work and a traineeship and the other to University.

My last child, was fortunate enough to be given the opportunity whilst still attending high school to experience TAFE in her final years. She did a course in assistant in nursing and found that this was to be her field of choice. It helped her work towards and complete her entrance for University to study nursing. Without this experience at TAFE she was not sure what she would do when she finished her schooling. She went on to do her Masters in Nursing, a Midwifery Degree and became a Nursing Unit Manager in Midwifery at a large hospital at 33 years of age.

The TAFE system has been a strong support for my whole family and we appreciated that the high standards of education it taught has supported generations of young people in their start for a productive life in and for Australia. Do not let this fine system be destroyed, we are not dismantling the public education system and this is an extension of that system and at times, as with my family, a stepping stone to higher education.

A TAFE trained tradesman is essential to the continued high standards of our building, automotive and general life here in Australia.

Maintain TAFE in its present state.