

**Submission  
No 156**

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

**Name:** Mr Philip Von Schoenberg

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I have been a support teacher in public schools in NSW since the early 1990's, including teaching in off-site alternative programs for disengaged youth whose disruptive behaviours usually associated with their mental health and / or dysfunctional low socio- economic backgrounds, meant that they were effectively excluded from the school system .

Depending on age, personal aspirations and family circumstances, some of those students were offered a second chance education through the local TAFE campus. TAFE provided support structures and programmes for those students that allowed them the opportunity to become successful learners re-engaged with their community and in some cases their families.

The future for those students would have been very different without the opportunities TAFE was able to provide.