

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

**Name:** Mr Douglas Williamson

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Dear MLCs,

Youths on the Central Coast already suffer from a lack of employment opportunity, with 28% (the highest in the state) unemployment in this demographic. Cuts to our local TAFE at Gosford means students wishing to get the most basic qualification in our education system, the HSC, have to travel over 200 km each day to the nearest TAFE offering the HSC (St Leonards), usually by public transport. This is completely unsustainable, particularly if they are seeking to support themselves with part-time employment. This means that there is only one post - school educational opportunity on the Coast, this is at university level and already out of reach of those who have fallen through the cracks of the school system. This is the sort of educational opportunity one would expect in a developing state, not a wealthy developed one such as NSW.

The private provider model, favoured by this government is not filling the gap as was hoped after over two years of operation and should be capped at 20% contestable funding immediately and the remaining vocational education funds returned to the TAFE system across NSW.