

**Submission  
No 145**

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

**Name:** Mr Yagia Gentle

**Date received:** 9/08/2015

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From Yagia Gentle

10 Aug 2015

Re ; Submissions regarding TAFE

Dear Sir /Madam

As an assistance in the submissions regarding the resurrection of TAFE please consider the following personal case studies. One is myself, one is my son and one is a friend's.

Myself; i am a carpenter by trade but as my age inevitably has an effect i found myself needing to transfer careers due to a sore knee. I enrolled in my local TAFE (Lismore) and did a Cert 4 in Community Welfare , then went on and completed the diploma . i am now doing a degree in Trauma and Healing with Southern Cross university with the aim of a career in trauma and its effects. If TAFE was an obstacle at the time I would not have proceeded. Few students from the private providers of Cert 4 in Comm. Welfare were allowed to do the diploma as it was considered that their education was insufficient.

My son; My son went to Melbourne to do a diploma of performing music at NMIT . After completing the course he started a band which is still at the early stages but looks promising. To make ends meet he was taking jobs at fast food outlets and decided to study disability work to get a satisfactory job . As he already had done a course he had to pay full fee (\$4,500). No financial institution would lend him the money as he did not have a steady job. We took out a bank loan to help him. Many other young people don't have such support and cannot take the first steps towards employment.

My friend;

My friend is in a wheelchair and completed a diploma in fine art at Lismore TAFE. He was in the last group as the course closed. (they sold off the kiln and equipment for a bargain price). He now makes sculptures which are sold in galleries. When our local MP , Thomas George , was questioned he said "I didn't know the arts were so popular in our region" The option of an unemployed person finding fulfillment in creative arts is now severely diminished due to this closure, and the arts in this area is a major drawcard for tourism.

Hopefully from this you may get a sense of the immense value of TAFE in this area.

Regards, Yagia Gentle