

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

I am a product of the TAFE system.

I had no direction at school & sought an apprenticeship in Building.

My experience with TAFE Teachers was overwhelmingly positive.

For the first time in my life I had Vocationally experienced Teachers providing relevant information. They gave me a reason to learn.

I continued my studies & achieved , the then equivalent, Cert. 4 in Building, receiving the College medal for excellence & finishing third in NSW overall.

I have furthered my education with a Degree in Adult Ed., leading to a full time teaching position with TAFE NSW.

I am now in a position to positively influence "Youth at Risk", Stage 5 school learners, Trade apprentices & Cert.4 Building Studies participants.

In addition I deliver Asbestos Removal & associated courses.

Every class I teach is an opportunity for me to guide students.

I truly feel blessed with the opportunity to guide, shape & influence people that lack direction.....

With the proposed Assessor/Trainer Ed. Support Officer positions currently being tabled by DEC, these influential opportunities will be lost, at worst & severely impacted upon, at best. If TAFE staff are carved up into these separate categories, the nurturing, learning dynamic will be minimised.

My evidence for these claims is based on direct feedback.

Feedback from the parents of youth at risk, with tears in their eyes thanking me for having such a positive impact on their son/daughter.

Apprentices, now qualified that, in turn, enrol their apprentices at the College where I work to ensure the same high level of Teaching that they experienced.

Building students, now qualified Builders, that employ many staff in successful Building companies, are evidence that they received a positive experience when taught themselves.

Will Trainers, Assessors or ESO's provide this dynamic....? I doubt it.

What seems to be lost on Politicians is recognition of the social function that TAFE performs. These dynamic does not immediately return dollars & so, appears to be a redundant function of TAFE.

The focus on generating income seems to be foremost in our Education minister's sights.....why ?

Smart & Skilled....?

Dumb & Killed, in my opinion.

There is evidence that every dollar spent on education returns six ,6, to the economy....(refer John Kaye).

The question has to be asked,

"why do current governments choose to cut funding & in turn investment in our economy, when Australia needs it most.....?"

A return on an investment requires an investment to start with, not an expectation that overworked staff can do more with less, as has been the case with TAFE employees.

Increased TAFE course fees are driving our students away in droves.

Why do we not see the benefit of investing in their future, long term, rather than the short sighted, money making system that has been forced on our community..?

I am deeply disturbed by the Department's current stance, politically supported, that TAFE funding should be cut in order to remain competitive with private RTO's. We are told that TAFE is the Government's "preferred" provider.....prove it & return an appropriate level of funding.

Invest in TAFE & let TAFE Teachers do what they do best, teach.

(Please.....?)