

**Submission  
No 231  
Attachment 1**

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

**Organisation:** Unions NSW

**Date received:** 14/08/2015

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*Partially Confidential*

## **Appendix**

### **Submissions received by Unions NSW for the Vocational Education and Training Inquiry**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 1**

**Lorraine Antonini**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I have seen my husband, daughter, son-in-law and their friends retrain at TAFE as their career ideas have changed over the years. That has been one of the great things about TAFE, lifelong learning. Furthermore my mother took many arts courses over the years, gaining great satisfaction and fulfilment.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I have only positive experiences of TAFE as previously stated above. My husband's courses made the transfer from Italy to the Australian workforce easier and faster.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

My daughter and her friends are unable to take further courses due to the greatly increased costs. They also decry the reduced hours of the courses offered and the resulting lower standards.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The greatly increased fees obviously prevent many from enrolling. TAFE has always been regarded so highly and as an essential element in our lives at any age.

#### **Additional comments**

What has been done to TAFE is nothing short of criminal. Our TAFEs are vitally important in helping people train for work or retrain at various stages in their lives. They should never be unavailable because of costs. They are not universities only for those with money behind them or willing or able to take huge loans

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 3**

**Blair Kavanagh**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

TAFE was a tremendous way for me to achieve a second chance at education.

I was taught by highly competent teachers and had a great network of students to help me gain advanced IT skills.

TAFE got me work-ready in a growing employment sector and the pre-2015 fee structure was affordable, making this dream possible.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Great teaching, hands-on learning, work-ready skills training, great network of students and teachers in our local community.

The local TAFE was an innovative IT hub, just what Australia needs, and more of!

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

2015 has seen a dramatic drop off in student numbers, it can't be a coincidence that this is the first year of the new fees structure.

Personally, I won't be able to advance from a Cert IV to a Diploma in my current course (IT) because I can't afford the new fees.

An employer has told me that he prefers to employ diploma graduates only, so in effect the new TAFE fees have limited my employment prospects.

I'm still positive about obtaining work though with my Cert IV and thankfully I achieved that before the new fees kicked in.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Debt, debt, debt. That's what the new Smart and Skilled fee structure is offering new students.

I've left TAFE debt-free but new students won't be so lucky. With mature students, this will mean debt on top of debt as they already owe HECS debts from prior study.

#### **Additional comments**

Employers are looking for competent IT workers in Australia but it seems the TAFE system won't be supplying them.

This is a poor outcome for individual students and communities, and Australia as a whole.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 4**

**Lynette Brooks**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a librarian, teacher and parent of 2 students who have attended TAFE.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Everyone at TAFE from teachers to support services such as counselling and libraries together with the administration staff are high level professionals who support students to achieve their best possible outcomes in their courses. The staff at TAFE are dedicated to a high quality public education system which is responsive to the needs of all students and promotes inclusive education. TAFE does not discriminate on age nor intellectual ability, all students are supported on their learning journey by teachers who have current industry experience. My son attended the tutorial support provided for the HSC at Sutherland College and I feel confident this helped him achieve dux of his school.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

There has been an obvious reduction in numbers across the college. A once busy and thriving library has been reduced to a handful of students each day, student computers are always available where prior to these cuts a booking system was needed to ensure equity of use. A once thriving college has been reduced to a ghost town. The current reform process further threatens to reduce staff numbers and hours from courses.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Fewer people are enrolling in vocational education as the fees are too high. Students will need to work for many years to pay back the government debt, for courses which have VET fee help. Traditionally TAFE has provided education to students who do not have aspirations for university qualifications, but are more practically minded. Why have these students been subjected to university style fees, when in reality they may not achieve incomes commensurate with university graduates. Ironically they may never earn an annual income which exceeds the threshold whereby fees are repaid. Consequently, the education debt will still exist and the books will not be balanced.

#### **Additional comments**

Reinstate TAFE funding, education is not a short term proposition but a long term investment which ultimately leads to a society which has a good standard of living and a decline in social issues which result from an under educated community. Australia needs a long term vision not a short term and ineffective fix for the budget. Privatisation is not always better, private providers do not have the support services that TAFE provides and some are questionable in the quality of the course material and delivery methods used. Recent media coverage of childcare graduates from a private college exposed the poor quality and standard of training delivered. TAFE NSW should be seen as the

preferred provider of vocational education and training and funding should be reinstated immediately.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 5**

**Kensey Lyn**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I taught at schools in Wagga for near 40 years. Tafe or as it was called then Technical Training College was newly available to boys( girls) in Wagga Wagga wanting to leave school at 14 & 9mthsto learn a trade and enter the workforce. No wonder we now have a dearth of qualified Tradespersons . The idea that we need to bring these people from overseas who probably have dodgy certificates , is absolutely abysmal. And this at a time of high unemployment and part time workers often being paid less than the award wages simply wrecks of very bad politics. We don't need students to continue to Years 12 or !! before learning on the job. We need big money invested in the youth of Australia who have passed through our schools and have been given Tafe Training by the Government. All who want to take on a trade being allowed to start after finishing Year 10 . Lyn Kensey

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

With my husband I taught Greenkeeping for The qualification od Diploma in Golf and Bowling Green Construction and Maintenance. All students passed with at least a credit and a job to return to or begin

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

My Grandchildren have been discouraged from going to Tafe because the cost is prohibitive if you live away from home as many again have to do. Very few apprenticeships lead to a job and often the terms or as they are now called,semesters, are cut and the course cannot be followed in a sensible continuous way

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

They cannot find TAFEs providing the courses they wish to follow and costwise the incentive of an apprenticeship and a job is just not there

#### **Additional comments**

Do as Rudd did. Put out Government millions to train our own people in Health Educatin and Training. Continue the way Rudd did in spending monet now on the people who have paid the Taxes over the last generations and are still paying. Be dammed to the cost So what! Why have a credit rating when the youth are not employed. Why was the Best Education System in the World in NSW changed to ape the American or European Systems notoriously educating only part of the community.?

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 6**

**Chris Shelly**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I have been a student, teacher and provider of clients to TAFE and am now a parent of an upcoming student.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Great teachers, effective workplace preparation. Simple, easy and practical administration to enrol and study. Quality outcomes on the job.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Reduction in available locations for training in rural and semi-rural areas.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Costs for various courses have increased and so I am sure this has had an impact. Also, lack of options in semi-rural locations for VETAB courses for Years 11 & 12 without significant travel times - becomes unwieldy.

#### **Additional comments**

I believe in the TAFE system and will always support it!



## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 7**

**Christopher Mark Hobbins**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a Toolstore Person at Albury TAFE.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I used to see lots of students going to class, interacting in the canteen and learning in the classrooms and workshops. The busell of movement and knowledge was great to see.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

The class sizes are increased, the workshop hours are reduced, the pressure on the teachers and students and me have increased. The same amount of information and practical experience has to be put into fewer hours otherwise the class isn't viable. Doesn't make money. We have become a company not a place of learning.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Some courses are no longer available here. The Welding and Fitting and Turning Departments have closed.

Some people just don't feel able to go into debt. I'd say if they go into debt they might feel that they can't pay the debt back and it will be hanging over them for years. If the subjects are being taught here then the student will not come.

#### **Additional comments**

Smart and Skilled should be scrapped. The TAFE system should be funded properly by the Government so we can all get back to providing a good Education and Training System for our Community.

**Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 8**

**Robert McIntyre**

**What is your experience of TAFE?**

Student

**What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Very good learning facility

**What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Has become too expensive

**Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Too costly

**Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 9**

**Nerida Silver**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

My experience of TAFE goes back to the late 70's when I was a student studying a 2 year course in Home Economics at North Sydney. This enabled me to obtain a career in Nutrition & Dietetics in many public hospitals over a period of 18 years. In 1994 I gained casual employment as a part time teacher at Mt Druitt TAFE in the same field. As I was still employed in the Industry I brought relevant and current knowledge and information to the students. In 2001 I separated from my husband and experienced a traumatic time of property settlement and child custody which rendered me incapable of continuing to work in my field and teach. It took me a good part of 3 years to get myself back on track. In 2004, as a single parent I once again became a student at TAFE in Wentworth Falls taking on a Cert 1V in Youth Work. The following year I completed a Diploma of Community Services. In 2006 I undertook 240 hours of placement in a relative industry and gained employment with them at the completion of my student placement. I am still employed with the organisation and have been promoted into Senior Management.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

When I undertook my initial study in the late 70's the staff and training was of such a high caliber that I gained employment instantly with a well regarded teaching hospital. Again, in 2004 when I underwent a career change I experienced the same. Teacher's were extremely experienced and imparted their knowledge both practical and theoretical with enthusiasm and encouragement. As a single parent I was entitled to reduced fees which was the only way I could of continued studying at that time. This enabled me to get back into the workforce, hone my skills in this new sector, work my way up into Senior Management and put my 2 daughters through University. TAFE gave me the skills and confidence to get back into the work force and provide for my family.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Over the last 9 years I have worked in the community sector, predominantly within a Public Housing Estate. I have personally witnessed a number of women undertake TAFE Outreach courses that were available to them as a soft entry option and free (no barriers) that have then gone on to further education and employment. This year, with the introduction of fee paying we have had a massive reduction in community members accessing TAFE Outreach. I think this says it all!!

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Community members, especially from disadvantaged backgrounds cannot afford to participate in a TAFE course. For many reason's, many of them have multiple barriers (ie: poor literacy, homelessness, DV etc) and it will take many years of encouragement and trying new skills to find their feet and confidence to embark on a career, or even seek employment.

#### **Additional comments**

TAFE has always been for those who are not or deem themselves to not be academics. TAFE is a nurturing, hands on way to gain skills and knowledge to obtain meaningful employment. PLEASE, stop making cuts to TAFE. It was a life line for me!!

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 10**

**Ryszard Linkiewicz**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Have taught in TAFE, have had students go to TAFE

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

It allows people who have either not been to school or who have had to leave school early to get a second chance. It also gives those boys for whom school is a waste of time the chance to do something more relevant.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

The cuts are causing a huge problem for those students (mainly boys) who have to stay at school until age 17 but can't stand the place and can't see anything relevant about it. They don't want to follow the normal high school curriculum they just want to do something that will prepare them for a job. The cuts have resulted in huge discipline problems for secondary schools and a massive increase in mental health problems amongst teenage boys.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

They can't afford it. Fewer places are available. We have lots of boys who want to go to TAFE but the places just aren't available.

#### **Additional comments**

The shoddy treatment of young people by the Abbott and Baird governments should be a huge cause for concern. The only beneficiaries of these policies are the private prisons and mental health professionals.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 11**

**Carol Wickenden**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

As a past student. TAFE training was above expectation the staff have not only teaching skills but more important trade experience. Bringing real life mentoring and passion to the classroom.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I excelled at TAFE under the excellent guidance of the teachers.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I believe the subjects have less hours which means that less can be taught. Less hours less knowledge less practice = lower skill

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The fees are too high.

#### **Additional comments**

As we know education is the key out of poverty. We need to keep career education at a realistic cost to suit low to middle income earners, so that they can grow themselves and become a valuable part of Australian community. For Australians needing financial help to pursue their career path a government loan would help them, however I believe most students work part time and we should be paying minimum eg 10% so that we are paying off the debt.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 12**

**Will Miller**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

past student and current teacher

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE qualifications are gained solely by student competence. There are no financial incentives to either the organisation or staff based on student results. As such it has been a trusted source for industry training.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Admin support services cut at the same time as introduction of huge admin workload by EBS system. Student contact hours shaved to critical minimum values.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The cost may now be considered prohibitive. Some are uncertain of the future of VET and the value of a TAFE qualification.

#### **Additional comments**

I have seen pressure applied to teachers to work beyond the EBA.

**Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 13**

**MALCOLM HORWOOD**

**What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

**What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

To further my career path and to set young ones on their working journey

**What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

The course i did went up \$3000 in 2 years

**Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

It's getting to expensive and you are not assured a job when finishing your course

**Additional comments**

Tony abbott and liberal party suck big time. cutting funds in education is total stupidity.



## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 14**

**Kim Holloway**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Early Childhood Educator

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I loved my TAFE experience, I changed careers at 30 years of age and hadn't studied since high school. My teachers were amazing, they helped me learn how to write essays again and taught me everything about the profession I was about to enter. My teachers were dedicated and tireless and filled me with confidence which boosted my self esteem. The education I received at TAFE was invaluable when I entered the Early Childhood profession. Through TAFE I had gained the knowledge needed to be successful in my career, a career I have had for nearly 20 years.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I think it is outrageous that TAFE students are now faced with such huge fees, and with even more funding cuts to come the fees will only increase. Teachers and teaching hours are being cut and students courses are being shortened which means they are not coming into our profession with all the knowledge they should have. I know this to be true through my own work experiences. When I was at TAFE the course was two years, now the course is eighteen months. It is not possible to learn all there is to know in a shorter amount of time.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

This does not surprise me, TAFE fees are now too expensive. I could not afford to pay these fees today, as a Early Childhood Educator my income is low and it would not be enough to pay for the high TAFE fees.

#### **Additional comments**

TAFE should be free or at very least should have minimal fees. People are dropping out of trades because the fees are too high to pay. Most TAFE students enter professions that are low paid even though they have studied for two years, how can they then pay off a student debt occurred at TAFE, they can't!

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 15**

**June Smith**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I got my Welfare Certificate from TAFE in 1980 when my children were teenagers, as an incentive to them to do vocational study and to prepare myself for a career after raising a family. I would not have been able to do this if TAFE had costs like today I simply wouldn't have been able to afford to. My TAFE skills meant I always had work and never cost the government any social security payments. Cheaper for government in the long term.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE gave myself and my family the skills to work in our chosen career.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I think the downgrading of TAFE is a disgrace.

TAFE is the working mans university.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Simply because RTO'S have given vocational education a bad name and taken funding out of TAFE causing fees to rise to an unaffordable level

#### **Additional comments**

I am now retired but occasionaly I do voluntary work reading resumes for job applications and culling the numbers for interviews. These days employers have no confidence with training that people have done through RTO'S and instead prefer to employ people who gained their skills through a TAFE collage so they can be confident of the skills that have been taught.

Hence when I read job applications top priority is given to skills learnt at TAFE.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 16**

**Sophie Corbett**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I'm a support worker for teenaged mothers and their children

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I have referred many young mums to introductory TAFE courses. They always receive an extraordinary level of support from the teachers and administrative staff at TAFE. Without this support many of these young women would have felt overwhelmed by the workload and have lacked the confidence in themselves to even begin studying. For women who fall pregnant in their teenaged years access to affordable flexible education can be the key to reducing their reliance on government benefits. It also works to improve their self image which means they are less vulnerable to abusive relationships and other forms of exploitation.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I have been saddened to note that since the funding cuts many of these introductory course have failed achieve minimum enrollments and have had to be cancelled.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

I have seen that the cost of these courses has been a barrier for women who are just managing to get by on a pension.

Many of the women I work with do not have much confidence in themselves in an academic sense. When the courses were free they were more prepared to give it a go and many were surprised at how well they did.

#### **Additional comments**

TAFE opened the door to financial independence and better self confidence for so many young people in the past. It is too good to loose.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 17**

**Lyn Bevington**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I was a casual TAFE teacher for 10 years and as a service manager we take TAFE community services students on placement plus we have run TAFE Outreach courses for the community

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE supports people who have many challenges, to successfully enter and complete an educational pathway eg Aboriginal, long term unemployed, socially isolated, people with a history of mental illness and women re-entering the workforce after raising children. TAFE is a very supportive learning environment. TAFE students and their teacher supervising the placement contribute greatly to community projects. Community members who have done Outreach courses which were free and therefore accessible have gone on to further study and work

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

TAFE Outreach courses have had no bookings in them since fees have been introduced as people can not afford the fees. We have had no students on group placement this year because the numbers of students enrolled have dropped significantly

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The fees have completely put people off and it is unaffordable

#### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 18**

**Mark brown**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student plus parent of an apprentice.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

We will always need competent tradesmen not everyone wants to be a uni student as most of them can't find jobs in their field anyway train our own don't import.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Less teachers for higher fees with larger classes.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Less companies needed as most items purchased from overseas ruining our work force and manufacturing industry.

#### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 19**

**Kay hughes**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a parent of a young business owner whom has just had her apprentice tell her she. Never really wanted to be a hairdresser and quit. My daughter has decided that it is not financially worth putting on n another apprentice as they are paid as an adult after one year of going to TAFE and the cost to her would prohibit her from putting another one on.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

The wonderful helpful and dedicated teachers whom cop a barrage of the governments cost cutting and undermining the services they offer with this tactic.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Allowing apprentices to be paid as an adult when the experience they gather after the first year is immeasurable.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The fewer people is in and because of the interference by government, the high cost to the employer, the taking away of the tool allowance, the offer of apprentices to borrow \$20,000,00 to an 18 or 19 yr old is scandalous. Know wonder the young ones don't want a trade and the employer can't afford also the apprentices the huge rise in training places riding on the back of the poor and ripping off the government. Absolutely disgraceful

#### **Additional comments**

TAFE and the teachers need the support of all but as with everything if the govt runs it down enough and. The TAFE system falls over the. Government will blame us the not so gullible NSW voters.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 20**

**Chris Lynch**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student. I completed my Electrical Trades Course in the mid to late 80's. I then returned in the mid 00's to complete an Advanced diploma in Electrical Engineering

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

The teachers you work with are from the field that actually do the work that they teach about. The variety of courses you can do. It use to be a cheaper option then University.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I moved out of the TAFE system prior to the funding cuts, however I'm aware that the NSW Govt. have forced TAFE to compete course by course against the private sector. This means a little backyard company which has no overheads will always come in cheaper than TAFE and therefore TAFE and students suffer as, courses are dropped in campuses were they can compete. I'm also aware that the introduction of the new computer enrolment system was not ready to be implemented when it was introduced this year and has turned the whole system of enrolment into a nightmare for both staff and potential students.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The increased fees is a big driver. The fact that some external company's offer qualifications where students hardly have to attend classes and can gain the qualification in an incredibly short period, talk about getting your licence from a corn flakes box.

Another reason is the fact that with courses only being offered at certain campuses, distance becomes a factor.

#### **Additional comments**

Both the current State and federal Governments are going out of there way to dumb down Australia. If you have money you will go to the top universities and training schools. However if you are in the low or lower end of the middle class you will end up un-educated, your job prospects will be limited and therefore your wages reduced.

TAFE was a great way for the low or lower end of the middle class to gain a good education, firstly expense wise as it was a cheaper option as compared to university. It also targeted its qualifications at those that were not academically inclined.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 21**

**Robyn Alderton**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

as a teacher, past student, parent and employer of students graduating from TAFE, TAFE has provided many opportunities for us to gain qualifications for our professional lives, upskill, reskill and maintain professional development throughout our careers.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

way too many to mention, but being part of creating opportunities for many people to get their lives back on track is one of the best parts of the job as a TAFE teacher.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

as a teacher - just this week a situation has arisen with a current student which is indicative of how we are failing our youth with constant cuts to funding. this student has been classified as a kid at risk when he first came to TAFE 3 years ago, due to a dysfunctional family (Mum is a junkie, Dad is in jail etc) who due to funding cuts across different sectors of services since June last year where previously there were services to give structure and support to these kids and now not available means he is often MIA. Now there is no funding to provide pastoral care, its no one whose job to follow up with kids in these bad situations with funded time allocation for the pastoral care to be available. we now have a kid who has committed such an awful felony he will be incarcerated for at least a decade in a high security prison. we are dumbfounded this kid has committed such a crime. the cost of the pastoral care that was saved with the funding cuts, will now be spent 10 fold in keeping this kid in prison. Where is the sense in that. this is only one kid, once situation this week, but we see the effects of funding cuts on a regular basis. How can politicians think its OK to spend tax payers money on privilege and luxury when there are holes that need filling in keeping our society safe.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

how can you provide the opportunity for disengaged people to re-engage to be effective members of society when we cannot provide them with the consistency they need to develop the life skills so they become effective employees. workplace attitudes and behaviors cannot be developed in an online course undertaken in 2 weeks part time. unless we invest in our youth, we will continue to have the problems in society we currently have. provide the funding so we can re-engage them so we have a productive society.

#### **Additional comments**



## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 22**

**Stella Perkins**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I have been a student and a TAFE teacher and a parent of a TAFE student and the Grandmother of a TAFE student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Tafe gives a second chance to everyone. There would be many more people on Social security if it were not for TAFE. TAFE saves money by passing on education in the old master teaches student method, so effective.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Funding cuts cut student hopes and limits students' vocational possibilities. keep hope alive.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Because the vocations have been cut, what is the point in acheiveing a trade when compensation is cut, working hours are cut, OH&S safety checks are cut and permant jobs are no longer permanent.

#### **Additional comments**

**Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 23**

**David Unger**

**What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

**What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Training, skills and qualifications

**What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Loss of courses, loss of quality of courses

Loss of support

**Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Cost of courses and availability

**Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 24**

**Maureen Highton**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I was a HSC student at St George TAFE in the early 70s, and as a result, I won a Teacher's Scholarship to University. At that time, I was a single mother of two small children, and TAFE gave me the chance to finish my education and move into a career.

I started teaching in 1980, and when I retired in 2000 I began teaching at TAFE in a part-time capacity. I did this at several TAFEs for six years. Recently, I started offering help as a volunteer in Port Macquarie TAFE in the ESL course.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE offered me the opportunity that I had wanted for a long time. It provided me with the skills and qualifications to enter university and train for teaching. The teachers I had were an inspiration!

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Although they haven't directly affected me due to my life stage, I have noticed recently that the Port Macquarie TAFE campus appears almost deserted. I have been wondering where all the crowds of student have gone to since I was last there.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

My grandson has tried to get into a computer course at TAFE, only to find that they are not offering it at the local campus. He now has to do it online, with very poor results for him. This is sad!

#### **Additional comments**

TAFE offered me a second chance and I am appalled at the cuts which preclude so many other students from having the same chance.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 25**

**Greg Shaw**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I have a tafe over the road and I can tell by the strugglers fronting up that its a target for the fascist regime to exterminate. yours ttily.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

As above

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Increased illitetying and misspelling

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The intentional malaise has enervated the punters

#### **Additional comments**

no

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 26**

**Peter Nelson**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student that learnt my cooking skills at TAFE my sister did stenography my mates did miter mechanic

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Knowing there was a training (excellent) progression for young students with great teachers

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Excellent teachers have been sharfted by the govt courses cut and students disadvantaged.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The govt has stuffed the system and is now reflected in the courses and teachers available. It's all about cost cutting by the govt.

#### **Additional comments**

I don't believe there is a way back shame on the govt. I am really upset with them and their approach taken.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 27**

**Dale Price**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past Student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Good teaching for relevant qualifications leading to employment.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

AS the LNP continue to push up un-employment they also take away opportunities for workers.

Another short-sighted and stupid Baird Government decision.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

LNP have increased unemployment.

= No Jobs= No courses!

#### **Additional comments**

A poor NSW Lib Government full of hate attacking workers and the backbone of Australia.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 28**

**Mark Coleman**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am currently a Part Time Teacher, and past student.

2 X Cert 3

2 X Cert 4

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Without TAFE i would be sitting on my bum at home.

I hated school and did not try.

I found something I liked, studied at TAFE and excelled.

I now have a Cert II in Air Conditioning, Cert III in Light Vehicles, A Cert III in Heavy Vehicles, A Cert IV in Light Vehicles a Cert IV in Training and assesment to name a few and use that acquired knowledge to Teach Automotive in TAFE for the past eight years.

I now Teach in that chosen field.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I was one of four support staff, I am the only one now.

We had support of disabilitys,Literacy and numeracy, Office support all now SLASHED.

We used to run small courses like Outboard engine servicing,Fuel injection, Diesel Fuel injection, Outdoor power equipment, Air conditioning Etc, but ALL have had the CHOP due to NO FUNDING.

We use to be able to purchase consumable products to keep section running and safe but this year we HAVE NO BUDGET to purchase these items.

We have been SLASHED to the bone with constrictive budget constraints.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Higher award payment for junior apprentices.

Technology changes.

Lack of faith in current governments smart and skilled payment scheme.

Its pathetic and does not work.

You need to get the private RTO'S sticky money making fingers out of the training funds and RETURN THEM TO TAFE. Our remuneration does NOT depend on outcomes where private RTO'S do.

**Additional comments**

It is every Australians RIGHT to be trained correctly and SAFELY by TAFE.

When will the politicians listen to us? When it is to late and there is a FATALITY due to sub standard training?

My children have the right to go to TAFE for an education and at the current climate the government will have killed it completely.



## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 29**

**Keith Aspin**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

The training was mostly comprehensive and the exams needed to be genuinely passed to progress further.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The current government is obviously attempting to destroy TAFE so privately owned training organisations can move in to fill the gap.

The fees are too high and courses are being dropped or downgraded.

#### **Additional comments**

I passed the required qualifying exams for my courses at TAFE.

Conversely, I received a certificate of completion from (private company) for a Government pre-paid course I commenced and then dropped after 2 weeks. So it appears that you pay the fees and you receive the qualification. Attendance not required!

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 30**

**Michael Reolon**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I have been a past student and parent of a current TAFE student. TAFE has changed my life for the better and I pay taxes to support Public Education not waste \$\$ on private sector handouts .Private sector should be independent & self funded

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE helped me rise from the recession in 1983 and I completed an automotive Pre-APPRENTICESHIP that year at Granville TAFE after Year 12. It was a very high quality full time course with practical training as well.Great teachers with Trade experience and facilities were excellent.In 1999-2000 I completed an I.T course at Blacktown TAFE which helped me change careers in difficult times.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

The courses are now too expensive at NSW TAFEs and this is stopping people being more productive. TAFE offers high quality training and is practical as well. University students attend also because it really helps them learn efficiently.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

They can not afford to study at TAFE due to high fees and resources need to be invested in PUBLIC education for the future of Australia. TAFE gives people opportunity and I would not be where I am today without quality education provided by TAFE.

#### **Additional comments**

As Housing is so expensive in Sydney , this is destroying people's capacity to afford higher TAFE fees and all NSW government wants is Stamp Duties not improving the education of its citizens when other nations are investing in Public Education for the future SHAME NSW Liberal Government

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 31**

**Norman Kable**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I wasn't very interested in school but as soon as I started at Sydney Tech College as an apprentice scientific instrument maker I became completely involved in the work and study required to be a tradesman. My teachers involvement with his students was a positive and happy experience. Had it not been for TAFE I would not be in the happy position I am today.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I have a niece who teaches at TAFE and her hours have been cut drastically. She has seen young people coming from private colleges who are so poorly taught and are so far behind in their vocation.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The cost to go to TAFE has become too much for young people to handle. Also because of so many class closures they might have to travel a long and costly way to get to their chosen course.

#### **Additional comments**

From an economical viewpoint it makes no sense at all to make redundant so much valuable equipment and so much experience.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 32**

**Michael Chanas**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a past student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I learnt a Parks and gardens courses.

Learnt a mechanics course

Learnt building outdoor structures.

The knowledge learnt has helped me get into a profession I have a passion for.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

#### **Additional comments**

Having TAFE courses available to learn subjects for employment is so important.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 33**

**nick**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Nursing student (EN)

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Excellent - a few years ago I did a diploma in community services and there was a definitely difference in availability of resources and staff stress levels.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

My tafe is always understaffed, teachers are stressed and pushed to the limit. During our nursing training there weren't even syringes and wound dressing packs to practice with!

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Because there are less courses available in general and the popular ones are only offered at select locations.

#### **Additional comments**

Costs are ridiculous. I will be paying off my course for years to come, which is unfair as I want to dedicate my life to helping others not struggling myself!

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 34**

**Peter Lee**

**What is your experience of TAFE?**

**What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

**What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

**Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

#### **Additional comments**

The failure of Governments over a number of years has led the Australian Government to recruit tradesmen from overseas with the subsequent cry that there are no jobs for Australian workers. Surely a return to the policy of so many apprentices per tradespeople coupled with a responsible funding for TAFE would ensure sufficient tradespeople with recognisable qualifications in the future.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 35**

**James Cruz**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I'm a past TAFE student who was able to advance myself into a career from a Social Housing background. If it weren't for that I wouldn't have had the opportunity to rise out of that. Cynically, it appears cuts and fee increases are an attempt to keep people in poverty and adversity. Shame.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE offers real life, practical experience in many industries. It provides people with the skills to properly do your job, not just a bunch of theory without any ability to apply it.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I know people who are now unable to complete their courses because they can't afford to. It's clear that for-profit educators are the beneficiary of these retrograde policies.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

They simply can't afford it, and because student numbers have been linked to funding the problem will only get worse as TAFE becomes even more underfunded and more students leave. A vicious cycle, probably intended to make TAFE look unnecessary and right for privatisation.

#### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 36**

**David Sharpe**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I'm a past student (1997-1999).

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I have nothing but praise for TAFE. It gave me the opportunity for affordable training that resulted in a promotion and better working conditions.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

No direct experience but would be concerned for the future of my grandchildren who may not have access to educational opportunities that Liberal families have through their wealthy parents.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Not sure but if Australia is trying to become a 'Smarter' country then it should be the opposite (i.e. higher enrollments). After all we need to be a smarter country now that the current State & Federal governments want to sell our country off to overseas investors.

#### **Additional comments**

Keep TAFE alive. From my experience they care more about their students welfare and success than private providers who are only interested in making money (typical Liberal philosophy....make more money at the expense of others).



## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 37**

**Alan Horspool**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past Student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I built a successful career around TAFE training. First an Electrical Apprenticeship, followed by block release Journeymans Certificate in Refrigeration, then my Electrical Engineering Certificate plus other vocational training throughout my career. As I near retirement from my work as a respected semi-professional in the construction industry I have a lot for which to thank the TAFE system. TAFE gave me the opportunities that would otherwise have been denied to a rural youth who did not have the means or opportunity to follow graduate studies.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Impacts of TAFE funding cuts have for me been a reduction in the availability of ongoing professional development training via TAFE.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

In regional areas there is a diminished program of training options offered and those that are offered have significantly higher fees.

#### **Additional comments**

The privatisation of vocational training may suit a government agenda of supporting large corporations but will diminish communities who need traditional vocational skills, developed through locally accessible training, to support their local small business and community generally.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 38**

**Robin Connaughton**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Ex Head Teacher (retired)

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

The main thing TAFE does that private providers don't is to supply good, fully trained teachers who ran courses to meet the needs of the students and their employers, which is why they have constantly been rated as quality suppliers of Vocational education by their customers. Private providers offer courses to make a profit, so things that the student needs are a secondary motivation

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

It has been continuous since the turn of the century. The budgets have been continuously cut in all areas. Courses available and places available have been cut, contact hours have been cut content has been cut, all in an attempt to meet continuous reductions in real funding and to meet competition from private providers who are not always constrained to meet the same criteria, and who obtain sometimes unfair government sponsorship

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

TAFE cannot offer the full range of courses it used to, nor meet all needs. Meanwhile private providers do not step into the breach left by TAFE's cuts because profit is a more important motive than meeting the training needs of the populace

#### **Additional comments**

In the seminal Hilmer report, Fred Hilmer wrote that education per se was not necessarily an area of enterprise that it would be a good idea to open to full scale privatisation . Both sides of politics ignored this in their haste to move the costs of necessary training of people need across to the individual student rather than picking it up by the government. Bad move

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 39**

**Andrew BLUNDELL**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a proud TAFE librarian but also a past TAFE student and graduate.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I have the pleasure of seeing students at TAFE achieve everyday. These experiences may seem trivial or minute to those who have an education, but seeing the achievement in someone having the confidence to learn, be it operating a computer, to making something practical, or just learning how to communicate is amazing. TAFE everyday helps those from disadvantaged backgrounds, mothers returning to study, kids who don't fit into school, older men who are retraining, high school graduates who don't want a Uni education or those who are educated and want to better themselves a place to learn. I see smiles everyday from these people, and the TAFE library has the pleasure of working across all student levels, all learning areas and covers all experiences. TAFE going online also allows the remote or people who need a non physical space to learn - being in contact with these people via online means or even over the phone allows me to see and hear confidence being built by able to learn where learning may not have been possible. I go home with a sense of achievement EVERY DAY!

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Support services have been decimated. It is hard to provide that little bit extra to assist our students achieve. Enrolment, payment and online admin systems are ludicrous. Although we present a streamlined face to students, the work in the background is ridiculous. Teachers and support staff are providing a lot of good-will because we love what we do, and if this didn't happen TAFE as we know it would be dead.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

It is very difficult for them to get return contact due to systems, it is expensive and the shonky 3 month for a diploma with a free iPad RTOs are taking away the professionalism of education.

#### **Additional comments**

I love TAFE, I love how it helps communities, I love how it provides a second chance, but I also love that it is open to EVERYONE. TAFE is not just about one-off generic learning, you can learn everything in a course with Industry experts and be supported with your study along the way if you need it.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 40**

**Patricia Michaels**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

As a past student I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to study at TAFE and obtain qualifications that help me gain knowledge in different areas such as English, office skills, travel and tourism, tourist guide, business administration, assistant in nursing, and others at the same time to gain qualifications to have a better work experience

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

At the beginning be able to express myself in English through the assignments that were performing in class, obtain qualifications that help me to gain a position as a travel agent, and also get more knowledge as an assistant in nursing that help me to apply in a care worker position, as a mature and not English background student study at TAFE help me to feel more confident in my everyday tasks as an Australian citizen and be able to perform any dealings with government and private organizations

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Funding cuts to TAFE would increase ignorance, dependency, and other social problems

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Cost and support, unemployment,

#### **Additional comments**

Being from a country that doesn't have an education support which increases frustration, crime, unemployment, I believe it is a human right to be educated and receive the necessary support in that regard

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 41**

**Barbara Cattunar**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a retired Library Technician from Wollongong TAFE

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I saw so many people improving their job possibilities by attending courses from basic literacy/numeracy through to university entrance courses. Lives were changes, hopes were raised, and education was for all.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Funding cuts are a staggering blow to TAFE. Just one case of a refugee unable to continue his course because the fees have gone up 400% makes this a state for the elite only.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Because they can't afford it!!!

#### **Additional comments**

Education is the key to an informed, progressive and healthy society. Make it available for only the well-off, and you go back to feudal days, where the majority of the population were poor and ignorant.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 42**

**Colin McPherson**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I started work in the retail butchering industry and after nearly 20 years, re-trained as a professional Woolclasser at TAFE. I completed this course and then continued until I had completed a Diploma in Rural Business Management.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE gave me the opportunity to re-train in another profession. TAFE people were always informative and very supportive.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

As I trained some time ago, funding cuts were not an issue. However, I believe today's young people should have similar opportunities.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

I would guess there is less optimism in the trades? Abbott is hell bent on doing away with skilled workers, eg. car industry, submarines in Adelaide!

#### **Additional comments**

Education- at any level- is an investment in our society. It is very narrow minded to say that education is, too dear!

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 43**

**Ian**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I earned my electricians licence and an elevated platform ticket through TAFE .

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Because of the training TAFE gave me I was able to get gainful employment .

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I live in Ultimo next to the TAFE, and noticed the obvious reduction in the numbers of students attending.

I remember the last time I attended TAFE , the teachers there remarking on the withdrawing of funds . The effects of which we are now witnessing .

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Cost would be a factor. Plus I remember the Howard government promoting university education over vocational training. And withdrawing funds , from both . These policies are still being promoted with Howard's acalite Abbot .

#### **Additional comments**

I support more funding to TAFE's to train more trades and skilled people .

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 44**

**Peter McDonald**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

As a past student(1971/2) TAFE enabled me to complete my studies and achieve my HSC , as an adult, after being compelled to leave school after only 3 years High school due to family situation.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I found the teachers to be dedicated to encourage students to do their very best. On graduation I was able to gain many promotions in my career in the Federal Public Service.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

As a consequence of the funding cuts there are fewer courses available to potential trainees.

#### **Additional comments**

This government is a disgrace and must reconsider their funding to enable future students to advance NSW.



## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 45**

**Jacqueline Myers**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student, parent, teacher

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

The knowledge I learnt in a particular area I studied in, was both informative and PARTICAL. In the TAFE system both my children have gained qualification that enabled them to commence work from school, my son and my husband both are in trades and went through the apprentice system ,and TAFE produced good sound SAFE trades men. My daughter and I gained Cert !V qualifications. Both children have gone on to gain tertiary qualification, however they are very knowledgeable and practical in their chosen profession. Many of my students don't have the capability of going to UNI however would and do make good sound workers with good thorough education gained in the TAFE system. You can't buy your qualifications in the TAFE system, it has been around for a long time and it trains a good solid knowledgeable workforce

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

All of the above and especially the reduction of courses, increase in fees, lack of support staff, having educators and trainers on casual employment contracts, greatly effects the outcomes of those studying and the product (i.e.students)that TAFE produces. SOME RTO's courses you can just buy your qualification and the fully produced on-line courses has a fail rate of 85%. Keep TAFE open, re-establish the training courses and process it produce. Not only do students gain knowledge and skills ,they communicate with each other, they network, they form communities within the system and they don't learn in silo's

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Lack of availability, distance need to travel to get into the course you require to do for employment. Increase in fees. The government is gradually whittling away this great product and handing back education in this sector to the private sector, which in my experience does not produce a competent trained person. Australia did at one stage produce good ,sound, well trained tradesmen or tradeswomen, or worker, in todays climate with different RTO's standards are not met, competency skills are all over the place, therefore safety is not paramount in the skilled worker trained today by RTO's.

#### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 46**

**Judith James**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

A past student, a school teacher, and later a relieving Education School Director.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Many years ago whilst a young teacher, I studied typing at TAFE. This meant I was able to produce work sheets etc for my classes and later when I studied for my drama degree and Master of Education Degree I was able to type my papers and assignments. As a relieving Education Director, I saw at first hand how students who did not fit into the schooling system were able to study as young adults for the HSC., and how others were able to mix school and TAFE courses concurrently to achieve work goals.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Anecdotally from two young people, one an apprentice painter, a girl, said she couldn't afford the fees, and whereas once the employer of the apprentice would pay the fees, now with the burgeoning costs, this was not happening; the other a tradesman wanting to upskill, said the course he was doing was now changed, and the switch he would have to make was too expensive as he had a family to support.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

There are fewer people for two reasons from my understanding speaking to young people, namely that courses they want have been cut at their nearest TAFE on the one hand, and on the other, the courses are too expensive.

#### **Additional comments**

I live in an electorate where jobs in trades have been consistently high. TAFE gave these workers the skills. Where will the next generation of tradespeople come from, if there will be a skills shortage in the future. Obviously from overseas, whilst our youth languish on the unemployment lists because they couldn't afford or have access to the once renowned TAFE system. It seems to me that the destruction of TAFE is part of the unspoken desire of the State and Federal Liberal Party to keep the ruling classes with the money, educated with good jobs and the rest subservient - something like the old feudal system is what I have read. One just has to look at the way in which the Baird Govt is treating the workers of the Hunter Valley, leasing the port of Newcastle for 100 years, taking mining profits hard earned by miners, yet taking the proceeds to fund infrastructure in Sydney. Our Newcastle ship building is folding because the Abbott Govt is giving contracts overseas in the name of cost cutting, yet has its nose in the trough spending tax payers money on limousines, helicopter rides and chartered planes to travel around in.

Prime TAFE land at Belmont is ear marked to be sold, as is I believe some of the Hamilton TAFE whose resources and courses have been savaged.

The problem is the voting public generally has no idea of the costs for the courses now - some, like a year's drama diploma are now \$12000 a mother of a young man has told me. My university drama degree cost me NOTHING!! What has become of us as a society with all this User Pay! Not the Australia of my youth!

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 47**

**Gina Walder**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

At the age of 26 I attended TAFE and undertook a Secretarial Studies course. Success in this gave me the confidence to re-start my education and I completed my School Certificate, which led me to University and a teaching degree and career. None of this could have happened without the passion and dedication of the excellent TAFE teachers who taught and mentored me.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

As a teacher I am frequently encouraging students to move into TAFE courses so that they can have an enriching educational experience; something that better suits their level of maturity and aspirations outside the bounds of high school structures. Many have moved on to skilled employment as a result of their TAFE experiences; something that many schools can't offer. Without TAFE these students would be unhappily back in the high school senior classes creating havoc or just dropping out altogether. It is becoming increasingly difficult to convince them of transitioning into the workforce through TAFE as the cost for courses is moving out of their reach. Parents are in despair. Families need support to make dreams achievable.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

I can't answer this. I just know that those students who are dissatisfied in the standard high school senior classes are looking for trades that lead directly to employment; they want apprenticeships but there aren't enough around - maybe that is why they aren't enrolling in courses in the first place.

#### **Additional comments**

Without the services, both educational and supportive, that were offered by TAFE many years ago when I needed it, I KNOW that I would have just given up. On everything. My experience at TAFE enabled me to gain the confidence to pursue a career, not just sit back and let life happen to me.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 48**

**Sam May**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I have been a student on several occasions and I taught a unit some years ago.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE is accessible in location and requirements. I had not studied for years and the TAFE structure allowed me to learn and taught me to appreciate learning. I went onto other TAFE courses and then onto university.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I hear that courses are being cut. Our community has many young people that require the courses that our local TAFE offers plus more. I have seen the mental health of elders improve by attending a course at TAFE? I have heard that support services have been cut completely for those of other cultures and this only serves to further isolate these individuals. TAFE gave me improved self esteem and I believe I would not be fairing so well in life currently without TAFE.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Cost always puts up deterrents but available courses of interest are required.

#### **Additional comments**

I know that there are other training facilities but those course are no where near the quality of learning path that TAFE adheres to.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 49**

**Kerrie Howson**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I have had a long association with TAFE. I have been a student, a casual teacher & the parent of 2 children who have completed a TAFE Diploma course & a Trade Certificate course. One of whom has then gone on to university.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE has always provided a learning environment that produces people with practical skills.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

The cost of TAFE courses now would have precluded my children from attending without parental help or having to take out a loan.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Because it's becoming prohibitively expensive. There is no tool allowance for apprentices. Employers would think twice about employing & paying for an apprenticeship and many people can't afford to pay themselves.

#### **Additional comments**

In my view competitive tendering never produces the best result. Our TAFE system has a great reputation. If it's tendered out the bottom line will always be the dollar not the quality of the education.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 50**

**Sally**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I'm a school teacher

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Tafe is a hand up to those who don't gel with traditional academia, to those who missed out on schooling for various reasons, an escape route for battered wives, a skill builder for refugees, a second chance for so many people who do not want hand outs but want to get out of their rut, their trap or their socioeconomic pigeonhole. It keeps the old young and involved, it skills the unemployed and it allows the disenfranchised to make connections. Making TAFE unaffordable and weakening it by allowing poor quality, corner cutting, for profit private rivals to compete is going to mean the death of so many communities, industries and even the death of so many battered wives. Tafe is a stunning jewel - don't toss it away.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Locally we've seen the heavily subscribed trades course that is prized by local employers (fitting and turning etc) canned, and made available one hour and 45 minutes drive away. We've seen fees rise and seen women taking out huge personal loans so their kids can do 15 thousand dollar beautician courses without starting this humble career saddled with debt - too bad those mothers are so saddled. These are low paid workers. What is happening to TAFE is horrifying. Please, stop before it's too late.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Unaffordable debt for low paid work - however the cost incurred by these people missing out on a way to earn a living outside social security - an intergeneration cost - will be felt for a century at least.

#### **Additional comments**

Restore our wonderful system

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 51**

**Gavin**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Got me into a trade in the early 90s.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Great, low cost start in the workforce which compensates for lack of businesses willing to train newcomers.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Now: lack of courses means rogue training companies are supplying a range of previously cheap courses under a HELP fee scheme for the price of a uni degree. What I see (as a Clinical Psych.) is many mentally ill and unemployed are being duped into free courses owing many thousands of dollars (e.g. \$18000 for a Business Cert)... The trick is that they will never owe enough to pay it back to the government though wages. Hence, the company gets paid up front at the tax payers, expense and the LNP gets to destroy a great egalitarian social institution that benefits all... NOBODY says anything about it!

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Costs are up.

Courses are down.

#### **Additional comments**



## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 52**

**Deb Ferguson**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Granville TAFE has always been a wonderful institution helping disadvantaged students having access to further education. Often this was the stepping stone to university education. non government training institution are dumbing down courses and often students are coming out with a Mickey Mouse diplomas which are not acceptable. Please stop destroying The TAFE system .

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Yes

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Course are costing our students a lot more,contact hours in many courses are been halved and sometimes students in different years of similar courses are been combined.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The courses have been cut at Miller and Granville .also the cost of course have increased- students from poorer families are u wiling to go into such debt.

#### **Additional comments**

Politician from the north shores should come to our local TAFEs and talk to the students parents and teachers they show no concern for these voters.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 53**

**Veronica Scheihing**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

When I arrived to Australia in 1985 I learnt English and 2008 I did Certificate 111 in age care as a Assistance Nurse and give knowlege to do my job at high standards

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

In that time the support was great but the new generation will be suffer and i think this the moment we need to rise our voice

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Because without education or skills we can find any job so we need to find a way for a new skills to survive

#### **Additional comments**

You are doing a great job

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 54**

**William M. Smith**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Two of my sons gained a career through TAFE. One qualified as a fitter & turner, the other as a draughtsman. Way back, my now wife did a one year Secretarial course at Petersham Tech., after 4 years of secretarial work she trained to be nurse (trained within the Hospital), married had 4 children, then was able to work as a medical secretary for the next 30 years using her tech skills. She enjoyed all her jobs immensely.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

None personally. But I am aware that over many years TAFE trained/educated many young people in a trade/profession. Often these students were not suitable or could not afford tertiary education.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

None. But, I cannot see the sense in Killing off TAFE when we are supposed to be becoming an educated society. Also we must educate trades people locally NOT import them from overseas.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Firstly, the job of trades has been undervalued and too many students are encouraged to do uni' study which is above their ability. Secondly, the collapse of manufacturing in Australia. Thirdly, the ridiculous attitude of the Federal Government in cutting funding. Fourthly, apprenticeship wages should be higher to compete favourably against the dole.

#### **Additional comments**

TAFE is/was a great way of educating young Australians and also older workers who wanted to increase their skills or change occupations.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 55**

**Paul Robson**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Offering high school and HCS courses to students who require a more practical and alternative pathway to achieving a HSC. Seeing people I know receive a second chance at education. Knowing that under privileged and marginalised people could receive a low cost yet quality education which improved their life.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I've noticed a reduction in courses and a reduction in the availability of courses. Students now having to travel longer distances to a TAFE college because their course, such as the HSC, is only offered at one particular college.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Course fees have risen. Fewer courses are on offer at fewer venues.

#### **Additional comments**

Private providers exist to make a profit through exploiting students, many of whom are vulnerable. We need TAFE as it provides quality, equitable education. Society needs a fully funded TAFE to provide the training in skills and provide the social network, especially for the marginalised.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 56**

**Geoff Nielsen**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

A past student who undertook Outreach Courses for mature Students to enable them to gain qualifications & skills to re-enter the workforce. Also Certificate 1 in Information Technology

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Good staff who took the time to listen to students and understood their needs to gain qualifications & skills to re-enter the workforce

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Not Relevant. But this is a disgraceful way of destroying Public Education by Stealth

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Increase course costs and not enough available relevant courses

#### **Additional comments**

**Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 57**

**Stephen Noel Dewar**

**What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

**What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Fantastic!

**What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

My family and friends are all hurting with the TAFE cuts and fee increases

**Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Too expensive for average income young people

**Additional comments**

**Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 58**

**Mark Green**

**What is your experience of TAFE?**

Careers Adviser

**What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Fantastic outcomes for students

**What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Increasingly difficult and unaffordable for my students to access TAFE

**Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Fees make TAFE unaffordable. Smart and skilled is confusing and anything but smart and skilled

**Additional comments**

TVET will be the next area under attack

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 59**

**Ron Gough**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I have had wonderful experience with TAFE, as a student myself and as teacher of literacy numeracy for 30 years

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I was able to help a large number of students to improve their literacy/ numeracy skills, boost their self esteem and then go out to find employment and contribute to society.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I have been offered no work this year

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

it's too expensive.

#### **Additional comments**

Please restore funding to TAFE ASAP&gt;



## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 60**

**Rosemary Durbidge**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Student and a parent of a student.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I have been able to complete simple courses at reasonable prices. My daughter was able to complete her year 10 education and then go on to complete other useful courses with TAFE. The same opportunities are not available at other educational organisations. Some students are not able to afford or function in other learning environments.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Many courses are no longer available at my local TAFE. Similar courses at other institutions are very expensive.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Many people feel that they MUST go to University to get an appropriate education, while most of the school leavers feel that they are somewhat less of a person if they do not have a university degree. I know that without Plumbers, Electricians, Hair Dressers, Fashion designers etc., we would not be able to have the varied lifestyle that we enjoy and we would not have the employment opportunities for those students who are not able to go to university.

#### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 61**

**Carolyn Worthy**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Parent of a past student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

My son was able to complete his apprenticeship at a nearby college at affordable cost.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Recreation courses have long gone. Vocational courses are not available at all locations.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

When training is affordable then it is within the reach of all. A generation of skills is lost to society because of an inability to pay for private tuition. Education at all levels should be available to all at affordable rates. It shouldn't be a function of parental income. This serves to entrench privilege. Youth unemployment figures will only increase as skill levels decline. This will ultimately lead to societal problems...drugs, alcohol, etc. Good skill training is an investment in our future.

#### **Additional comments**

Tafe gives access to all at local campuses. It is affordable and is regulated. Staff are qualified. None of these attributes are guaranteed in a privately controlled system. Private concerns run for profit and over time will cost more to the user. Profit will come at the expense of wages and tenure for teachers and increased costs and possible loss of local access for students. It is government absolving itself of the responsibility of providing education services. Education in all its form is a right not a privilege. It contributes to social cohesion and is something we need to value highly.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 62**

**Graham Lang**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Parent of 2 students. I know this will fall on deaf ears as it's about not supporting both state and federal governments from either making money or saving money. Education is not a cash cow, unless you happen to be a high ranking mp and your daughter can get into education scott free, it is, if run properly the basis of society.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I have 2 sons that have attended TAFE one for an apprenticeship and the other in a diploma course.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

bloody accountants, always looking to trim money off of essential services, take responsibility as politicians and create a better society with a high standard of living for all.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

who's counting ?

#### **Additional comments**

what else can you say about politicians and their actions and neither side are blameless.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 63**

**Rob Vail**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

TAFE has always provided opportunities for my ex students to learn skills and gain trade jobs.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

The TAFE teachers that I have come to know are like my primary school colleagues motivated to provide a quality learning experience for their students at an affordable price.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Opportunities for students have been lost & skilled teachers have become retrenched!

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Private providers are more motivated by profits & high fees so students vote with their feet.

#### **Additional comments**

This constant dismantling of a viable TAFE system is destroying the careers & lives of a growing number of Australians!

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 64**

**Leanne Plackson**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Learning in an environment that is supportive. I have positive experiences in face to face learning in my local community.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Reductions in the variety of courses offered across the TAFE network and at local TAFE'S.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Fewer type of courses available and the increase in course costs that have occurred in the last five years.

#### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 65**

**Penelope Harvey**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I studied Spanish at TAFE many years ago but more importantly I have friends who are or were teachers at TAFE.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I have heard that it is an excellent vocational education system which is very necessary as not everyone can go to uni.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

My teacher friend has had her hours cut and now has to work at a different TAFE to support herself.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Fewer people are enrolling because it has now got too expensive and there are fewer classes.

#### **Additional comments**

Don't let this excellent system be destroyed.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 66**

**GlennBob**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past Student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I have completed a few courses through TAFE which I found challenging and self satisfying. I have also completed similar courses through the private sector and it is clear that it is only about giving qualifications without the effort through this source.

TAFE is and always has set high professional standards for both their teachers and students to aspire. The private sector just want the money.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

There is a obvious loss in the number of courses available. While I agree there should be a minimum number enrolled to run a course, it is obvious that this policy is designed to kill off TAFE.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Cost and availability of courses are a tactic of the LNP in this state to justify them reducing the funding for TAFE.

#### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 67**

**Chris van der Wall**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Former student, part time teacher, now full time teacher

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Seeing positive change in the abilities, attitudes and acquisition of life skills by students. We often see students growing into functional citizens, contributing to society positively whilst helping their respective industries to grow.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Students have quit due to fee increases and the inefficient way in which TAFE has been operating. Others had to enter a course well above their academic level due to course cuts- these students have been set up for failure. Our facilities are dirty, equipment not maintained correctly. This is all being documented in case of workplace injuries, as TAFE is allowing this situation to occur and not assisting in any way.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

In Illawarra they were UNABLE TO ENROL due to the disfunctional online system. Then the fee notices were sent, they shocked most students into leaving, then last year's students were sent invoices for thousands of dollars when they had completed their studies. Can you imagine what was said about TAFE by the general public? It is no surprise students are not returning to TAFE.

#### **Additional comments**

This appears to be a deliberate shut down of TAFE NSW. Never have I seen such a mess up of a reliable trusted brand that TAFE is. The government and future governments should get ready for HUGE social consequences. They really must have no idea!!!



## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 68**

**Dean Baker**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

spent 4 years doing a trade course then another 4 doing an advanced diploma and have completed several other courses at TAFE that have helped me better myself and helped me gain the position i currently have. without cheap access to these courses i dont know where i would be now.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

people at my place of employment dont want to do the courses i have completed due to the cost

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Cost of courses have gone up to much. young people cannot afford to go or they dont think the huge out lay without the prospect of employment once they finish is worth it

#### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 69**

**jim Mulcahy**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Ex Student 66-70 Boiler maker Parent of Ex Student 90-94 Air Craft Maintenance Engineer

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Very good training in both practical and theory in trade In the case of my son Training was very good

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Funding cuts mean that tradesmen cant go back and do a journeyman course with out parting with 5-6K wich is prohibitive to a lot of tradesmen and tradesmen that have retired and are interested in doing courses to develop skills in retirement

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

simply because it costs to much

#### **Additional comments**

Bring it back that TAFE is free to anybody that pays tax,Enough money is wasted and not put into the Education system

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 70**

**Alice Beauchamp**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Am parent of student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Flexible teaching, dedicated, well qualified teachers at reasonable cost

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

All these counter-productive measures, with discontinued courses, lack of availability of teachers for consultation, lack of previous support services & counselling.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The expense of privatized courses & lack of transparency is NOT encouraging

#### **Additional comments**

If the proud tradition of TAFE finally collapses through a thousand cuts, a fine example will be lost.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 71**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Teacher now but student in the past

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Tafe helped me get skilled in trade areas and has been my employment place for over 25 years. My income has gone into our local regional community and I have enjoyed working at Tafe.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

It has been frustrating being put under pressure by our management because of the funding cuts. It is also sad to see so many mature students miss out on Tafe now because of the new fee changes.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Fees are much higher, jobs are much scarcer

##### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 72**

**Fulvio Chicco**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

My younger son attended Petersham TAFE whilst doing an apprenticeship with NECA and now is an electrician with AusGrid. We are grateful for his good experience. I strongly recommend TAFE training for all our tradesmen and other workers.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Unfortunately I went to university for an accounting degree. My elder son also went to university. So I have no personal experience with TAFE.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

There is so much emphasis on going to university that young people do not appreciate that a trade is as good as a degree. Only TAFE provides trade training, so any reduction in trade training will affect the number of tradesmen that Australia needs now and in the future.

#### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 73**

**Patricia Robertson**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Although I spent most of my teaching career working in the Dept of Education as a Primary School teacher, after my resignation in 1982, I worked as an ESOL teacher (P/T) in TAFE for almost 20 years. Working with migrants from many countries and helping to improve their English language skills and with it their ability to survive more comfortably in their new culture and lifestyle was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I Loved working in the TAFE system, despite my initial trepidation, as it was clear to me that at that time TAFE was a re-entry point for people who, for a wide variety of reasons had not had successful experiences in the school system, eg students who had not matriculated. it also gave people such as women who had been out of the workforce, an opportunity to update their skills further their education and build their self confidence.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Probably for a variety of reasons but I think that the prohibitive cost structure and the fact that governments seem to be almost disdainful in their attitudes to the TAFE system are probably the main disincentives.

#### **Additional comments**

I'm glad to have had this opportunity to tell SOMEONE of the pain I feel as I watch helplessly as the system seems to be disappearing. I am now 80years of age and I am quite happy to have my own views discussed, but I would not like those involving the member of my family to be repeated without personal agreement. This would affect my answer to the next question, so it would have to be 'perhaps'

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 74**

**Peter Murphy**

### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Easy access to a good Arabic language teacher at low cost.

### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

No direct experience. But a great deal of concern for teachers I know who have lost jobs, and now have to seek work with private sector providers with little job security. Very concerned for art students, and for all students faced with much higher fees. No surprise that enrollments have fallen by over 30,000.

### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Much higher cost of TAFE courses

### **Additional comments**

Baird government will destroy TAFE and sell all its buildings if we don't stop it.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 75**

**Veronica Husted**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Teacher, Past student, and past parent of a student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE is a world class institution which gives people from all walks of life a first class further education. The many programs which have been held under TAFE have seen students, and particularly women, grow and learn.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Not affecting me personally at this time, but that does not matter. Cuts to TAFE affect us all in reducing the quality of training for VET, apprenticeships and womens' programs.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Cost, loss of value of courses because of cuts, loss of quality teachers and programs.

#### **Additional comments**

Why would any government want to reduce a proven system of training and education? It beggars belief.



## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 76**

**Maryanne Seton**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a past student & have a disabled daughter who has completed several TAFE courses.

I completed my first Diploma through TAFE at age 52 years- very exciting.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I completed my Diploma of Community Services- Case Management through work with weekly computer sessions with our teacher & online resources provided by her. The support was great.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I think it is a disgrace that a Quality resource for further education like TAFE is being under utilised & students of any age are missing out on opportunities to further employment &/or lifestyle opportunities.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

I can tell you the cost of some courses would be a factor but I believe the lack of advertising & promotion for TAFE by the gov't has impacted greatly. TV advertising used to raise awareness.

#### **Additional comments**

It is time for a New government that is not going to privatise or sell off all of our assets both in the physical sense & the human resource of well trained, skilled & experienced trainers & workers. This is getting scary.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 77**

**Lesley Watt**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a past student of tafe and completed a diploma in music.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Great teachers! Fully qualified in the field of music and dedicated to passing on their knowledge, skills and expertise in the industry. The course was very hands on and relevant in all aspects of the music industry - including live performances in pubs, live sound and engineering at various venues and in million dollar studio's. Full use and access to all computer facilities and professional software systems with the opportunity to incorporate this into our own online promotion and portfolio. The same course in a private facility can cost tens of thousands of dollars - money I did not have at the time, nor likely to have in the future.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I am no longer a student of Tafe, but funding cuts would be devastating. Many people cannot afford to go to uni - nor do they want a big hecs debt. Personally, just the thought of having a hugh debt to pay off at the end of a course would prevent me from doing the course in the first place. I have also been a student of some private colleges - funded by the government for work training, and did not have a very good experience. Private colleges do not have to comply with discrimination laws - I was harassed for being gay, and told I should use the men's toilet (by fellow students)and the private college get's out of any obligation to prevent such behaviour.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

As I have been out of the Tafe and educational system for some years now, I am not aware of declining numbers. Perhaps because of funding cuts, there might be too many students in too fewer classes. Also I think there is probably a trend for the prestige of uni? Not sure.

#### **Additional comments**

I think it is a mistake to cut Tafe. We are not all blessed with wealthy parents to pay our way into the best schools and private colleges. Tafe is worth every dollar invested, and much more. To diminish Tafe would be a total act of stupidity.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 78**

**Cheryl Beesley**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I was a student some years ago. I completed several courses at different locations in the state.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Courses were good, it was easily accessible.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

No personal experiences other than some types of courses that were provided in the past are no longer running. I think if these community courses rather than just vocational courses were still provided, TAFE would be more viable.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The cost is a big factor. The lack of jobs involving apprenticeships/traineeships makes it difficult for students to access vocational education.

#### **Additional comments**

The Federal Government was very shortsighted when they created their own colleges in opposition to TAFE. Why spend that money when TAFE was already in existence along with the infrastructure? Why reinvent the wheel? The resources are there - in metropolitan and regional areas across the state - they should not be closing colleges, they should be embracing the resources they have, both physical and human, to provide a wide range of courses to more people in the community, as it used to be.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 79**

**Elisabeth**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I was a TAFE teacher in 1980, in a Sheltered Workshop.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I was honoured to have the teaching position

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

The TAFE experience is the BACKBONE of our workers and trades people

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Because it now comes with a large debt

#### **Additional comments**

I stand with TAFE.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 80**

**Rosalind Hinde**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Parent

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

My son did not enjoy school and did his HSC at TAFE. He subsequently got a first class Honours degree in Science.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Only through the news.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Because they are afraid of going into debt and cannot afford the fees. Possibly they feel worried by loss of quality in courses as well.

#### **Additional comments**

Please stop privatising our assets!

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 81**

**Hoang Vo**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a past student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Not everyone leaving high school can or even want to go to university. I found TAFE was the better option for me. I'm more of a hands on person and learn by doing in a vocational environment. TAFE allowed me to pursue a career in graphic design.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I haven't experienced it first hand but I can tell it would affect students because financially, most TAFE student are from low income part of the community.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Fears that they won't be getting a high standard of education due to the cuts. Lots of private institutions popping up.

#### **Additional comments**

Cutting TAFE funding will only benefit the well off, private institutions are charging students full fees while those who can't afford to pay them but are willing to learn are left with sub par bare bones TAFE. Whatever happened to equal education for all.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 82**

**Colleen Carmody**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Last year my daughter attended Enmore TAFE and studied the Diploma of Interior Design. She loved the class, her classmates and teachers. It cost \$1,200. This year she had trouble enrolling and finding out details about the course. She was told to turn up on the first day and the teacher would enrol them. They didn't know the fees. After 3 weeks attendance without being enrolled rumours started about the fees. It turned out that this year's fee for the second year of the Diploma of Interior Design course is \$12,000, up 1,000% on last year's fee. Last year there were three classes. This year there is one class and my daughter is not continuing her course.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I worked there for over 30 years as a teacher and program manager. As a teacher I saw the changes in the students from entry to course completion - more confidence, more skills, better able to communicate in a business like way, more understanding of how the business world works.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I ended up as a Program Manager in a Curriculum Centre and I was made redundant as all funding for teacher/learner resources and curriculum were cut.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The course costs are astronomical and poorer people and country folks can't afford these massive fee hikes.

#### **Additional comments**

For a strong economy fund TAFE!

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 83**

**Jenny Singleton**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I have studied 3 courses at TAFE, as well as a number at private training colleges. I found TAFE was far more professional. TAFE were much better with student records, consistent with RPL and the teachers were far more dedicated and experienced than those I encountered in private colleges. When people ask my advice on whether they should do their course at TAFE or at a private college, my answer is always: if you really want to learn, go to TAFE, if you just want to get the qualification as quickly as possible (irrespective of the depth of the learning experience) go to a private college because it is faster (because you learn less) and easier because everyone (and I mean everyone) always passes. TAFE is serious training, the private providers coach you to the point of spoon feeding, 'teach to the test' and the assessments are definitely easier. The hours spend in training are much less for a course of equivalent level (eg Cert IV) with the private providers and really in many cases just a 'tick and flick' - really dumbed down.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

The course fees are just too high now. I was interested in doing another Cert IV. As a mature age worker I need to ensure my skills are kept up to date. I looked at the course fees and they are over \$10,000 for the Cert IV I am interested in. This is simply unaffordable and beyond my means. It is also immoral that as a tax payer, and a person who's family has paid tax in this country for many generations, that I cannot attend government provided training to keep my skills at an optimum level. This also presents future problems, because if I were to become unemployed as a mature aged worker, the odds of my returning to the workforce are not good. This would mean the government paying more in Centrelink payments than it would have cost them to keep me in the workforce.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Firstly, it has become too expensive. Secondly, teachers and schools are not doing enough to promote it. University is seen as more prestigious and vocational training as 'second best', for those who don't make the grade. This is resulting in a serious lack of skills in essential areas such as plumbers. I recently heard of someone who had to wait 3 weeks to get their toilet unblocked because the few plumbers in the area meant they could pick and choose and no one wanted a small job. For this reason plumbers earn more than many professionals, but teachers still shunt their best and brightest to areas like law etc where there is an oversupply and subtly discourage any student with any talent away from trades and 'dirty' (read blue collar) work, when it would often be in the students (and community) interest to promote such career choices. Thirdly, the apprenticeship/traineeship model is outdated. In the UK you can do courses things like upholstery,



hairdressing, painting & decorating etc via a one year intensive training course and graduate ready to open your own business. The model of doing one day a week at TAFE and four days carrying tools around or answering phones before you are certified, and earning less than the dole during this time, is simply outdated. It may suit a 17 year old living with mum and dad, but there are many mature workers who realised too late in life they would have been better off becoming a plumber than a lawyer, who cannot do that for four years. A one year intensive may be an option for many - if such an option existed.

**Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 84**

**Garry Oates**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a full time mature-age student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I have successfully completed Cert III in Community Services Work and am currently attending Cert IV in Community Services

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

There are no printed materials available to refer to when studying.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Courses are reduced and costs are higher.

#### **Additional comments**

A person who was attending my Cert IV class required assistance with literacy and numeracy but funding cuts have stopped the assistance he was receiving.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 85**

**Lynda Britz**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student + teacher

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE provided the skills needed in a very accessible way for a reasonable cost.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I am aware of several students who terminated their courses as the fees increased.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Fees have increased enormously.

#### **Additional comments**

The TAFE system which was an excellent vocational training at reasonable cost to the student has been progressively dismantled and is now expensive and underfunded.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 86**

**James**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student and employee

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Great trade based training gave me the skills and knowledge to expand my vocation. Additional studies gave me opportunities after career change.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Less choice less opportunities for employment based training less community involvement less benefit to society

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Less relevant or useful training offered to aid in making people job ready for opportunities in our community

#### **Additional comments**

This government has no idea of issues outside metropolitan area.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 87**

**Grahame Smith**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student and parent of students. Experience has been excellent filled with applicable career competencies.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Directly applicable to life and career

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Cuts have reduced diversity of subjects offered in less locations

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Cant afford fee increases and increased distance travelled to where courses are offered.

#### **Additional comments**

Leave our TAFE alone please ....it belongs to the people not to Parliament. Stop privatisation of TAFE leave it in public ownership please.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 88**

**Brett Harris**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Carpentry Apprentice training

Computer Aided Drafting

Cert.IV Training and Assessment

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Accessible learning/training.

Quality learning.

Face to face training.

Good qualifications when training completed.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Reduction in trades training and other courses.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Can't get in to the courses they want.

Unavailability of courses.

#### **Additional comments**

Over the years TAFE has been allowed to fall into a hole. Under this government, it will surely go under.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 89**

**Michael**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a Nurse whose Government Department (ADHC) hires many of the people trained at Tafe. Without this level of education where would we get educated, trained, and useful Staff?

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Tafe provides the Staff we need to continue the ADHC Disability service.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

As a result of the course cuts, we are having difficulty getting appropriately trained Staff.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

It's about confidence. When you hear of the course cuts, and feel you are not going to have a choice or chance to get the education you need for the work you eventually want to get onto, you lose hope, and don't try. The competition for each place increases, also cutting the numb of entrants.

#### **Additional comments**

This is a very necessary level of education and training that the community needs.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 90**

**Wade Pitts**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a past student of TAFE.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Positive experiences include: positive learning outcomes to gain knowledge and communication & gaining certification to better future prospects.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I personally haven't been in this position but TAFE is imperative for all Australians to minimise unemployment and to gain knowledge to better our futures and the future of our beautiful country.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Prices are a big factor as do many people cannot afford the ridiculous prices involved just to gain a qualification which is resulting in less employment opportunities and it gives less hope for people who want to pursue their careers.

#### **Additional comments**



## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 91**

**Peter Burton**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I have been a Careers Adviser since July 1999.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE Certificates provide the skill sets for many of our students to lead productive and rewarding lives. TAFE provides life changing opportunities for many students not suited to the mainstream pathways.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

These cuts limit the options and opportunities for many students.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The demand for skilled tradesmen has not diminished.

#### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 92**

**Shirley Rider**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

past student, past part-time employee

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

My first course started me on a career path and the second reinforced certain aspects of my volunteer work now. Thoroughly enjoyed my courses and my work there also.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Only what I have read and heard

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Reduced funding would make it difficult for TAFE to continue offering high quality courses and to compete with wealthier privately run organisations.

#### **Additional comments**

TAFE serves a valuable part in education and it helped me in my studies and career path. Many young people would find it impossible to get the education and direction in their work and careers otherwise.

**Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 93**

**Kevin McFadden**

**What is your experience of TAFE?**

**What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

**What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Why are you reducing finance to a 1st class TAFE to give to a 4 profit private foreign owned Company

**Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

**Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 94**

**Catherine Fraser**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I gained my cert3 in News Media and diploma of media and communications from TAFE between 2004-2006. Could not have done it without them. They also gave me a path way to university. I worked hard and topped both my graduating classes as well.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Even back when I was a student, there were issues with teacher permanency. Teachers that SHOULD have been full time were casuals and the turn over was very high. The amount of skilled teachers that walked out the door left TAFE colleges poorer for it.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

As above, loss of skilled teachers AND the rising costs in fees. I paid half of what they pay now and even back then that was expensive for a casual worker/ student.

#### **Additional comments**

There has to be an alternative to university. TAFE is a great system if the funding allows it to be. It attracts some amazing professionals still working in their fields that teach different things to what universities to. And with the threat of \$100k degrees, what other avenues are people going to have? Are we just going to have a system of the privileged elite receive education and everyone else misses out?

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 95**

**Dennis Stanton**

### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

Parent of a student

### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Very positive: leaving school at a early age with a poor education, I need to gain a education. Therefore After 20 plus years I returned. I wouldn't have received the education without the support of teachers, etc and return to the work force.

### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

The cost is too much, hours reduced, adds more stress to the student to gain experience to get a job..

### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The cost, the number of course available

### **Additional comments**

Get rid of the current nsw gov. Stop hurting our next generation of people

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 96**

**Neil Miller**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student,

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

They taught me respect for my teachers fellow students friendship as well as a trade in my case 2 trades and post trade qualifications a better member to society and to community as a person better person as a individual and as father and husband and a provider.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Our trades are being lost of skilled workers to overseas workers keeping people of all ages, providing a better working qualified work force this gives hop and a futre to so many people that would be on unemployment or out out of the criminal courts and a criminal record for employment , gives self respect and a goal in lives to follow or pursue in life as it changes as with age.tafe provides a better life than with having no direction given or directed to people with a tafe course than with out one

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Government needs to provide a better campaign to the public to guide tafe courses and all its benefits against negative ones its better to have than not have for a better future system. push young and old to the real benefit reduce cost to allow more to attend as \$\$ usually determines from doing it or cant afford it attitude, everyone becomes a win-win in the end more employment better economics.

#### **Additional comments**

Yes I have been involved in tafe course and higher education for many years 2 trades and a stack of other qualifications as well as being an educator my self now all from understanding the benefits from learning and good teachers I was able tobe a member of society be a good provider to my family and then be able to return my added skills and learning back to society to add my part to the Australian society and community all to the thanks of tafe in the beginning.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 97**

**David Henry**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past Student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

In the early 1990's TAFE was a hive of excellence. Doing my trade apprenticeship at TAFE gave me access to machinery I could not have accessed at work, quality teachers, challenging curriculum and a group of peers whom I still fondly remember that I could learn with.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

As a result of the funding cuts I have seen the opportunities for young people diminish. Some Trades have no course for apprentices and other trades have only 1 or 2 TAFEs in Sydney where apprentices can attend.

It has become particularly tough for regional apprentices who are on block release who often have to travel 100s if not 1000's kilometres to attend TAFE with no support from their employer and little support from the State. This has resulted in cases of apprentices having to sleep in cars and eat nothing but 2 minute noodles for a week while they attend TAFE because they have no money or their family meets this cost burden. The State has abdicated its responsibility with its current policies to provide for the quality skills needed for the future creating a race to the bottom at the expense of quality.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Apprentices are already financially disadvantaged with their low wages, this issue is exacerbated when they see their friends earning significantly more with little to know training.

Then government puts the barriers in place for them to access TAFE whilst supporting mickey mouse courses which will not benefit them into their future.

How do we lure apprentices into trades if we can't make it easy for them and guarantee meaningful transferable skills?

#### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 98**

**Mark Hemmingsen**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a teacher at CIT in Canberra. We have always had a good relationship with TAFE NSW as we are surrounded by the state.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE NSW has always provided reliable support with CIT for my department. We always use TAFE NSW as a partner for TAFE related business.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

TAFE NSW no longer provides to high quality resources (some of which we still use) that supplement the learning for my department. These valuable resource products were paid for in the past.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The sector that I work in has had increased competition in the private sector. Ironically, the competitors in Canberra has had to shut it's doors on multiple occasions and providers and I imagine that this may be occurring in NSW. These substandard providers should never have been allowed to operate and receive funding that has been drawn away from TAFE.

#### **Additional comments**

Whilst I am not in the NSW system I have had many discussions with my NSW counterparts. There are many parallels in Canberra that are occurring across the border and many of these issues are much greater in NSW than here.



## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 99**

**Katrina Byrne**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Sibling and friend of students, relative of teacher

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE provides alternative pathways of education for youth not interested in University, for migrants, older people and for those seeking to advance their skills.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

It seems to me that teachers are forced to work harder with more students and less time to spend on quality education. Students can no longer complete courses due to the enormous increase in fees - my friend cannot complete his Graphic Design Certificate because he cannot afford the increased fees.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

It is becoming too expensive and the quality of TAFE education is dropping due to the funding cuts. We need more resources for this vital education pathway.

#### **Additional comments**

Please properly fund TAFE so we can ensure a skilled workforce for the future, and give our children educational opportunities.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 100**

**Colin**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a past student of TAFE.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I did my HSC at TAFE in 1979. It was important as I'd not fitted in at school, and the environment at TAFE was much more conducive to learning. I had worked for a couple of years prior to going to TAFE, but wouldn't have had the money to pay major fees. TAFE really helped give me confidence in learning.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I have no direct experience, but have several friends who work at TAFE. They are describing to me a system that has lost morale, whose courses have been cut down at a loss of skill development to students and that support for students with disabilities has been cut as well, all leading to poorer outcomes for students and our society.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

From my discussions with friends it's both cost and cuts to quality, though the removal of course offerings from various TAFE's also has an impact as some students cannot make it to the new location.

#### **Additional comments**

TAFE has played a vital role in training workers in NSW for generations. It has offered quality, equity and opportunity, and has made a major difference to the lives of so many in our community. I have worked with unemployed people and know how TAFE can enhance the work skills of people. The reduction in service and increase in costs clearly reduces opportunity and reduces equity in our society.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 101**

**Trevor.McGuire**

### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

A student and TAFE teacher

### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE was great place to lean a trade course or other course with experience person as teachers. Most teachers were trade/other people that had worked in their chosen industry before they went teaching.

### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I had no experience of the funding cuts as I am out of the TAFE system. I had obtained by degrees and became a teacher and now nearing retirement, but I still love the TAFE system. No funding cuts to the TAFE system.

### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Due to other public business running course that can be completed in a shorter time that has been made ease for the clients. The public exams have set answers to choose from and pick a,b,c,d,. I have hear that if they donâ€™t pass the first time they can have a second go at the exams, there is no failing in this system â€œ not like the TAFE system when I was a teacher and student.

### **Additional comments**

We need to stop the cuts to the TAFE system it is a good system and it needs to stay.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 102**

**Graham Murray**

### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Helped to complete high school, which enabled me to go on to a scholarship winning degree at university and which, directly and indirectly opened so many more doors for me to be able to lead a more fulfilling and rewarding life. Also opening me up to experiences which, dare I claim it have made me a better person and something, at least, more of an asset to society ay large.

### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Not currently in TAFE, so no direct personal effect but I worry for the denial of opportunity to others and the deleterious effects on the community at large that that may entail in the longer term.

### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Too many dodgy private providers of same and a lack of hope engendered by the lack of interest/concern/remedial action by those in power - of whichever side of politics/industry.

### **Additional comments**

**Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 103**

**Daniel Tjr**

**What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

**What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Studied my HSC

**What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

**Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

**Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 104**

**Margaret Hopkins**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

ex-teacher and student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I had the opportunity to gain professional certification at a mature age at a price that I could afford.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

There are a number of courses that I would have pursued but cannot do so. e.g. I found that the only TAFE College teaching Dreamweaver was on the North side, and I live on the Southside of Sydney. I am especially concerned that in early childhood education the hours for teaching early childhood students Aboriginal culture (absolutely essential for a reconciled Australia) have been cut dramatically to almost nothing. I feel very angry about this because it is only through our young that understanding and tolerance will develop.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

There are many thousands of prospective TAFE students who simply cannot afford the increased fees, and the reduction in courses available close to their homes means fewer enrolments. This situation also affects unemployed people and those who need to retrain after retrenchment etc.

#### **Additional comments**

I think it is very short-sighted of the government to cut funding to TAFE. It is the best learning resource the country has and should be nurtured and supported and fully funded, not reduced to the benefit of private enterprises.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 105**

**paul otoole**

### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Parent of student

### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Expert teachers, flexible study programs.

### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Courses cut from regional areas

### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Access to courses.

### **Additional comments**

Tafe is a unique pathway for so many young people. Flexible course structures allow people to work and study.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 106**

**Lorraine Iddon**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

Parent of 4

grandparent of 7

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

After leaving school at 15 with an Intermediate Certificate, I attended TAFE in the evenings, after work, for 2 years. The company I worked for made this an important part of up-skilling employees, and each certificate we stenographers were awarded for increasing typing and shorthand speed and accuracy, earned us recognition and led to promotion (Courtaulds was a big company with many departments, and the higher the boss, the higher the status of the secretary!)

I also attended evening classes in creative writing, water and oil painting during the years my children were young, thereby continuing to educate myself in adulthood.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I have watched for years as TAFE has been chopped about, restructured etc. Beyond frustration with the latest move to hand them on a plate to the private sector - especially when we have already seen the level of corruption in that sector. We are not just wrecking a much lauded component of our egalitarian education system, we are denying the young people who are not necessarily academic, the opportunity to reach their potential through further education specifically targeting their (and industry) requirements.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Fewer courses

Larger classes

Fewer teachers

Larger fees

Undervalued by political parties, probably because the people who need TAFE to flourish are probably do not have the resources nor collective power to protest rigorously.

#### **Additional comments**



Protests should be held simultaneously at every TAFE across Australia, with media attention focused on past students to support and attend. TAFE is every more important as more and more young people are jobless. Rather than cut funding, governments should be working to have industries who employ those who emerge from TAFE, financially contributing to maintain it.

We're becomming less and less 'the lucky country' thanks to those who think Government should put big business before we small people.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 107**

**Ben Staddon**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Both theoretical and practical/hands on education that developed my knowledge and ability as an electrician and an engineer.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Over a period of approximately ten years where I was periodically a TAFE student I noticed a definite decline in available courses along with their availability. Additionally a large reduction in staffing numbers resulted in a reduction of the available lecturer course/subject specific experience and knowledge.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Lack of course availability and a large increase in course fees.

#### **Additional comments**

TAFE education was a vital component of my career thus far and with the reduction of course availability, lecturer experience and funding would have large negative impacts to future generations development.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 108**

**Jo Holder**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Student and teacher

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Fantastic and essential vocational courses. Vital infrastructure, employment and opportunity in regional NSW - especially to Indigenous communities.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I have 100s of friends - all good artists and teachers - who have lost their jobs in regional and metro communities.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Cost. Courses being downgraded to the very vague to try to sell to more people. Lack of access - regional NSW students - especially Western NSW - having to travel hours to a TAFE campus. Lack of promotion. Lack of funds.

#### **Additional comments**

This is walking away from everybody beyond the Blue Mountains and is killing cultural opportunity in all NSW towns and large centres like Wollongong (where one campus has closed) and Newcastle - not just Sydney metro.

**Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 109**

**Joe von Bornemann**

**What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

**What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Professional, proper training

**What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

My daughters course was axed this year she could not complete her course

**Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Cost

**Additional comments**

By making education expensive it is dumbing down Australia

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 110**

**Victoria haberley**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a past student who gained several qualifications at TAFE including Cert IV Massage

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

The massage course I did was far superior to another massage diploma I completed at a private college. The TAFE teachers and service provision at TAFE were comprehensive and of the highest standard and yet only cost a fraction of the private diploma I completed. The private service provider was incompetent and provide an inferior qualification with constant difficulties with service provision and yet charged a premium price via a VET FEE loan

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Massage course now unavailable in the format it was and now almost unaffordable

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Because it is substandard and incredibly expensive

#### **Additional comments**

Please stop funding incompetent private service providers at the expense of TAFE it is ruining the training of the future service providers of this country

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 111**

**Margaret Hutton**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past Student. I undertook several Tafe courses over a 10 year period in order to upskill myself. I knew that getting a certificate of attainment or a certain qualification from a reputable Tafe course would entitle me to an appropriate job anywhere in the State of NSW, any State or Territory in Australia, and that any such qualification would be transmutable internationally too.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

The freedom and flexibility of courses. To be able to attend a class for competitive free thinking and absorb alternative perspectives in grasping core issues. Or to have the freedom to study in my own time at my own pace. To be able to complete as many or even just a few modules in my course and roll the balance over to the next semester.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I'm not surprised about the funding cuts. When I was doing a Records Management Course in 2001, my fees were \$440 per semester. But in 2002, John Howard changed all that and increased the fees to \$1160 per semester and I could no longer afford to continue with the course. I shudder to think what they are today. It seems like affordable tuition can only be bought by the extremely wealthy.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

If there are cutbacks to funding, then there will be fewer courses on offer. And the more remote a person lives outside the Sydney Metropolitan area, the more pronounced effects will be felt in regional areas. Not to mention that if a TAFE campus can no longer provide certain courses or are having to increase exponentially the course fees, then that too, will be a deterrent towards those on lower incomes seeking to educate themselves.

#### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 112**

**Neville Gordon**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I have completed a TAFE course via OTEN (distance learning) gaining an Advanced Diploma in Accounting with Distinction. I found the course to provide great knowledge and skills to assist me in my work and supplement the B Ec degree I ganed over 15 years previously

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I worked hard and did well in the courses I did.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

These funding cuts seem to be ideologically friven - a belief that the private sector will deliver better results than the govt. This is simply false especially with regards to service delivery. A govt body will provide a better service as that is its goal. Conversely, the private suppliers have their goal as profit to their shareholders (and this is spelled out in Corporation Law).

TAFE should be providing all these courses and funds should not be provided to other for-profit groups.

Also, note the poor record of some providers to overseas students - the official records show what some have done.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Costs have been substantially increased. That clearly has an impnact on demand.

#### **Additional comments**

IF the private sector wishes to provide such, then so be it. But NO govt (taxpayers) funds should be provided to such, directly or indirectly.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 113**

#### **Anonymous**

TAFE has become an important fixture in my family. I have a disability that has severely compromised my ability to work. In response to this, in 2010, I went to TAFE, as much therapy as education. Over the next year and a half I found myself struggling, so with the help of teachers and a disability support officer, I gave myself some time and tried again.

Since 2012 I have completed three certificates and I am currently about half way through my fourth. I'm not ready to work, but I am happy to study, each day making me more employable and one hopes, a bit wiser. However I mentioned family in the first paragraph, exactly what does this mean?

My younger brother has completed FIVE TAFE certificates, three in Fine Arts and two in Horticulture and he has enrolled in another. My mother, forced to 'retire' after she was given a redundancy payout, took it upon herself to study at TAFE in her late 60s, having never completed high school.

My Mum has too much love and energy to slow down. She is onto her second certificate and she is active in the community with her volunteer work. She was nominated last year for a NSW Carer of the Year Award. She has devoted her life to improving the lives of my brothers and I, and now, with TAFE, she is helping herself to help others.

TAFE has made a MASSIVE impact on my family, so the same opportunities should exist for everyone. Everyone should have access to this great institution. Cutting funds reduces the vitality of TAFE, the services on offer, like Disability Support people, and the foundational experience that study gives.

Smart and Skilled has taken away, not given, and the thought that private institutions benefit while public education suffers is not helpful or prudent. My family is not a burden on the state, we are proof that education can lift people up and produce enlightened, productive citizens. Please seek to build up TAFE, not hack it down.



**Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 114**

**Shaun Gorman**

**What is your experience of TAFE?**

Student

**What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Learned to Weld.

**What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Can't do Welding anymore

**Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Less option

**Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 115**

**Sean Greening**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a TAFE Teacher

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I have delivered training to apprentices for the past 18 years. This training has always been at the highest of standard with the needs of the student and the employers been central to all that we have done.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Funding cuts have shortened our student contact time by more than a third over the previous length of each course. We now compromise on any underpinning knowledge with the delivery meeting only the raw outcomes required under compliance. The main effect of this has been that our trade students are now more at risk on safety because their understanding is no ware as deep as it used to be.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Enrolment fees have increased from what used to be approx. \$3000 for a cert three course, to up to \$13500 depending on the student's previous study. My own daughter was going to enrol into the Diploma of Nursing at TAFE, until she learned that the \$21000 fee was almost line ball with a Bachelor's degree in Nursing from a University. She chose and is now studying a Degree at a public University.

#### **Additional comments**

TAFE provides the training that drives our economy. Destroy TAFE and you take away our children's' opportunities to improve and to contribute.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 116**

**Klaas Woldring**

### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Grandson did TAFE course recently - landscaping

### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Very positive

### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Not personally

### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Policies and attitudes by Coalition government

### **Additional comments**

I am totally opposed to the privatisation of TAFE courses. The TAFE system has served Australia well over a long period of time and should not be undermined by economic rationalist philosophy.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 117**

**Paul Munro**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I was a statutory officer who dealt with many industrial issues affecting TAFE and other forms of secondary and tertiary education across NSW and Australia for several decades.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

witnessed the engagement of TAFE's with industry to improve the delivery of work friendly skills accessible by lower socio income groups; above all I came to value the contribution of a wide array of lecturers and TAFE teachers with continuing experience; over time I saw the contrast emerging of the skill level and professionalism of the private sector training service providers who were more transient, more driven by profit, and often more compromised by collusive relationships with employment and social security agencies also increasingly privatised. TAFE is needed to set a high standard of real professional and trade skills in the national interest.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I have not personally compiled a dossier of such changes but they are almost of too great a magnitude to document. Submissions to the Howe Inquiry into Insecurity at work included very worthwhile in depth studies of some of those effects. One submission for staff at the Uni of NSW should still be on the ACTU website for that inquiry. There has been massive humbug for many years by Governments of all persuasions about training, substituting quantity for quality. There is an imperative need for excellence in trade and related training; there is a need for close partnership with industry but independence in the training provider; in Australia only TAFE has the range and history necessary to resource that role. Sadly, cost minimisation policies and too often venal nepotism or ideological favouring toward private service providers has consistently eroded TAFE's role and capacity.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Without accurate data I can only hazard a guess; it would be to the effect that too much of contemporary vocational education delivers inferior product; In other words, the punters know the TAFE and its private competitors are not delivering a pathway to future secure employment. For instance, training in ESL, English as a second language, was once a relatively valued and demanding credential. The proliferation of private providers, the lowering of standards and the murky scheme of colleges providing ESL instruction to foreign students etc has seen an almost complete destruction of the status and earning power of that teaching profession. I am certain there are numerous other instances of courses and modules, ostensibly counted as vocational training, but leading to no job or no added prospects of getting secure work. The more Governments abandon the regulatory and standard setting functions and capacity of TAFE, the more they abandon responsibility for quality training to market forces that are simply not well adapted to the performance of the service delivery required by an advanced nation.

### **Additional comments**

I have recently had reason to compare what I am told anecdotally are the standards to which Polish and Ukrainian tradespeople are trained with that of Australian tradespeople; I believe our system and output compares most unfavourably; it is narrower in scope and increasingly slipshod. Perhaps an independent and objective study should be made of what differences exist and if there are qualitative differences, the reasons for them.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 118**

**Denise Adam**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a past student of TAFE or Tech as it was once called. I have completed an electrical trade and an Engineering Certificate at TAFE as well as other courses over the years. Both of my children have/are studying at TAFE.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE is a great way to gain skills for your employment future. Many people can't afford university fees and TAFE provides an affordable, flexible, teaching facility.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I live in a rural area and the range of courses has diminished. The final year of the course my daughter is studying can only be finished at Gosford campus which is a minimum two hour drive both ways. As she is working full time, her ability to attend these classes is impossible without taking time off work. The course used to be run at our local campus.

The resources within the classes seems to be very limited and is attributed to funding cuts.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

I think the increase in TAFE fees has impacted enrolments. Not all young people can afford the fees and with the turmoil within the TAFE system not knowing whether they can run classes or the fees associated with the courses hasn't helped. Apprentice/traineeships are also down on previous years adding to the downturn in enrolments.

#### **Additional comments**

I think TAFE teachers are doing a great job with the limited resources that they are given. The government should be grateful they have such dedicated staff.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 119**

**Greg White**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past Student, parent of past student, Apprentice Training Co-ordinator with a State Owned Corporation.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

All my experiences of TAFE are very positive. My employer had a scholarship system whereby apprentices who completed a relevant Diploma whilst doing their apprenticeship were eligible for a fully funded university education in that relevant profession. This was the ultimate career opportunity.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

While I have only heard of these cuts, I feel complete contempt for a Government which kills off the chances of young Australians from receiving a quality career. TAFE has always been the career alternative for young people who wanted a hands on career.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

There is only one reason for this.....the cost to students. By winding up the cost to students, the Government can falsely say that demand for places is falling off.

#### **Additional comments**

I feel that the current situation can only be described a tragic.

My son and I are both TAFE graduates and have enjoyed/are enjoying a quality career because of that quality education.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 120**

**MAXYNE**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

My experience with TAFE has been on and off between 1995 until 2011. I have numerous Diplomas and Certificates to enhance my professional development to do my job as a community worker in a very disadvantaged community. The Teachers were fantastic the learning environment was great and affordable flexible as I had not been to school in 25 years employment. I was very scared originally to start to study but started with small with Career Education for women. This course motivated me to carry on studying and I did so for many years. TAFE gets you work ready. I have been working now for 15 years and still undertake TAFE Training when I feel I need to update my skills.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

All my TAFE years have been positive. Work-based learning was excellent as I was working full time and could manage both study and work.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

This did not affect me as I have stopped learning at the moment. But the cost of TAFE is now unreachable for many myself included I do not want a TAFE Debt.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

I think the cost is outrageous to study for Example I know students who are paying other training organisation \$10,000 for a community services Diploma and they are getting no hands on experience. Some of these training organisations do not know what they are doing and have no experience. AS TAFE has been around for a long time and teachers must be appropriately trained.

#### **Additional comments**



## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 121**

**David Butler**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

past student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

It was affordable and accessible.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

A big increase in fees.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Big increases in fees, courses being cut.

#### **Additional comments**

Tafe has always been the poor mans university, if I had not had access to cheap, accessible and quality education, my contribution to society would have been minimal, in fact, I would have been a burden. If Tafe had not been there for me, I doubt I would have gone on to any type of further education. Tafe has educated me all my adult life, and I am very appreciative of that. Do not destroy this institution for the sake of money, it will end up costing our community a lot more in the end, and I do not want to see this fine institution eroded in any way, it is a true asset and tool to a better society.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 122**

**Diane Davies**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Day Secretarial course in 1961 at North Sydney Tech

Assoc. Diploma of Social Science (Child Studies) completed 1998 at Northern Sydney TAFE

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Funding was adequate when I attended courses. Disturbing and short sighted to cut funding now when only TAFE can provide us with quality programs delivered by a qualified and experienced workforce that ensures students get the best outcome..

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Lack of support and funding for courses. Insecurity re continuing availability of quality courses.

#### **Additional comments**

Only TAFE can provide us with quality programs delivered by a qualified and experienced workforce that ensures students get the best outcome. Why, when more education is needed to support employment options and opportunities, dismantle this wonderful sector.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 123**

**Zak Arnot**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

As a past TAFE student the education and experience was my opportunity to start a career.

Now looking to undertake further study for a career transition, looking at courses I can see that it has been significantly undermined, and does not provide an accessible further education opportunity to many as it once did.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Fantastic teachers and learning environment.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Reduced courses and significantly increased fees.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Increased fees. Uncertainty they will be able to finish a course and where they first enrolled due to cuts.

#### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 124**

**Tim Trembath**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I'm a past student (computers first aid, short courses), my wife is a student (Nursing) and 2 of my sons have been students (welding & mechanics). Another son is hoping to study electrical.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Local training with appropriate (for the area) and well delivered courses.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Hardly any courses available locally - not even basic computer training.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Higher cost of courses and just not there any more.

#### **Additional comments**

The trade training centre built at the local TAFE and design to share with the school is now not being used. Teachers who used to live or visit the town are no longer coming which affects local economy.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 125**

**Lyn Trindall**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

My work as a Community Development Worker needed a Diploma although my employment in the field had been gained by experience.

I undertook a 3 year Diploma Course which I finished in 12 months partly due to my 'recognition of prior learning '. I was then able to apply for positions which called for professional experience and Certification. Without TAFE, I could not have moved onto other positions.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

My experience of TAFE was a positive and qualified learning situation.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

As a Worker in the Community Services Field, I experienced first hand, the consequences of funding cuts for Students.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

I believe that students in my field of work, are experiencing less support from the system as well as a lessening of course content. I had been invited to speak to students on many occasions, about my work experiences, but with budget cuts, these visits lessened severely.

#### **Additional comments**

Without a strong TAFE system students will be unable to access what used to be a strong, supportive institution.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 126**

**Patricia O'Neill**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

past student - I studied a business course at Granville College of TAFE after leaving school in year 10 due to family financial circumstances

Following 4 years work in which I was able to save enough money, I enrolled to do day matriculation course and completed this course in one year. The teachers were so supportive and understanding of time constraints and pressures. TAFE enabled to further my studies at university.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

All positive. Great teachers, learning environment, supportive. A great universal education establishment that provided second chance education, as it did for me, for all.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I am aware of young apprentice students who are not receiving the support they need from the disability support unit (not the correct name). I have friends who have worked to support students through their apprenticeship, with basic reading and writing, who are losing their job and hence students are not receiving the support they need.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Because of cost which continues to increase, and the increase in the number of private providers that are not offering the same credential.

#### **Additional comments**

Restore TAFE funding to the level where it can provide free universal education to all sectors of the community, especially the socially disadvantaged, as it did for me

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 127**

**Louise Katz**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I studied at and work in a university and haven't had personal experience of TAFE, but I think TAFEs are essential education and training institutions and I'm appalled at how private providers (which have been frequently demonstrated to prefer profits to provision of education) are being given funds that should go to TAFE.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

#### **Additional comments**

This is just a vote of confidence from someone outside the TAFE system.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 128**

**Gill de la Motte**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a past student of TAFE, completing several courses over recent years, a parent of a current TAFE student (traineeship) and past TAFE students

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

For me, TAFE gave me the skills and confidence to re-enter the workforce after a 10 year break raising children. My computer skills were non-existent. After a six-month Business certificate which included a work placement, I found employment at the University where I had my work placement immediately after that finished, and have been here now over 10 years. The positive education experience I had at TAFE gave me the impetus for further studies and I now hold a degree in Training and Development as well as diplomas and certificates, and this had allowed my career to progress.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

My daughter is employed and is completing a traineeship in retail. The cost for this was over \$1400! It is just a Cert II! She had no money herself to pay for this so we have had to pay, which is never easy. Her elder sister completed a cert II traineeship a couple of years ago for a fraction of this cost. The people being charged these exorbitant amounts are the people least able to pay and most in need of the skills and development!

Also, in Armidale the funding cuts and lack of student numbers are obvious - hardly any cars in the car park, no students out and about. We don't have alternative providers in town, so those potential students are just missing out!

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The costs are prohibitive. TAFE students are primarily young people and those with minimal skills - they simply can't afford to pay the fees or to get into debt through the HELP system. The subjects offered locally here in Armidale has dropped dramatically. We formerly offered graphic design, screen and media, visual arts, several IT and web courses - these all provide opportunities for self-employment or a springboard to further learning and careers. Now they are all gone and only the most basic trade courses remain. So our young people have no choice but to relocate to cities or to go without study and join the ranks of the unemployed.

#### **Additional comments**

It's so difficult to rebuild something that has been destroyed. TAFE was the go-to place for school leavers in town and gave them skills and confidence to move on with their learning and careers. And the same for those returning to the workforce, like me 11 years ago. To wind TAFEs down takes opportunities from those that need them most, and reduces opportunities and population in country centres that need it most!



## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 129**

**Michelle Jones**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Parent of could have been future student, past student, spouse of student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Local facility, knowledgeable teaching staff and helpful admin staff

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

No local courses offered and not the work experience / practical contacts compared to Sydney private college courses for Hospitality and Event Management

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Not enough range of courses locally.

#### **Additional comments**

past experiences for myself and my husband were great and very helpful to be able to go to a local campus and not have to travel, extra costs now involved with our daughter having to go to Sydney with travel and accomm is very stressful

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 130**

**Gabrielle Fogarty**

### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Retired TAFE teacher

### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

The past system has allowed Australia to have a current smart and skilled workforce. Training and skilling is an investment Australia cannot do without

### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Courses have been cut and teachers have been put under extreme pressure because of reduced support

### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

They simply cannot afford it, particularly if they are not in the workforce at the time of their training

### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 131**

**Meredith Doyle**

### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

due to circumstances beyond my control I left school early high school. If tape was not readily accessible and affordable there is no way I would have been able to complete high school in my mid twenties. TAFE education enabled me to enter tertiary education. I know have a Science bachelor and Masters degrees in Nutrition and Dietetics and my job prospects have opened considerably.

### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

As above

### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

These cut backs occurred in the main after I graduated from take.

### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

It's too expensive for low income workers ie, the working poor. Those who need these educational opportunities most

### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 132**

**Steve Rudd**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I've been a student at TAFE. I have taught in TAFE for 12 years and now, as a correctional education manager for 12 years, utilised many TAFE courses.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I've been a student at TAFE to gain career skills that have given me a fruitful and varied career. I have taught in TAFE for 12 years and was so proud of the quality education given to our students across all faculties. Professionals passing on their skills.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I'm currently an education manager at a correctional centre and I am saddened at what has become of TAFE. Our local institute cannot supply teachers and/or courses suitable for the centre and the inmates. Costs have boomed out of control with teachers having to travel 3 hours and requiring accomodation etc. In our region there is no alternative. No private provider is willing to travel the distances and know that it is not economical for them to take on delivering education at our centre.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

In some cases for TAFE to compete they have watered down their courses and use teachers that may not be highly qualified in their field. This combined with ever incresing fees most certainly have had an impact on enrolments.

#### **Additional comments**

I stongly believe all education, to 1 degree level, should be free. As a tax payer I want Australia to be a smarter country. All I see at the moment is people needing education will not be able to afford it and the lines at Centrelink becoming longer. Wake up Australia

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 133**

**Sian O'Sullivan**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a past TAFE student who has done a number of different courses over the years, including the Diploma of Communication and Media.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE helped me change careers and provided me with new skills which enabled me to get the wonderful job I now have at the University of Wollongong. The teachers were excellent and I also made new friends and valuable contacts in my time there.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

A number of people have spoken to me about the cuts to TAFE and courses that are not being offered anymore. I think TAFE is so important as a different learning platform to school and University and should be accessible and offer a good variety of courses.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Maybe because students feel there are a limited amount of jobs to get once they have completed the course. Unemployment rates are ridiculous and a qualification is only good if there are jobs to match.

#### **Additional comments**

We need TAFE!!!

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 134**

**Chrissy Brown**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a past student of TAFE. I have taken many courses at TAFE over a number of years. The training that I received at TAFE was fundamental to wellbeing and education. Without the training that I received then I would not be in the role that I am in today.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I attended a WOW course at a time in my life where everything was terrible. Taking the wonderful opportunity to undertake this course allowed me to mix with others in my situation. These other women all came together to help each other through the course to ensure we all left with a great feeling of togetherness and achievement. This was essential to our well being after years of domestic violence. All of this training was at no cost to us. the skills I gained from this particular course are ones I still use today, nearly 25 years later!

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

How can you be so short sighted to cut funding for vulnerable people in our society. We pay taxes to help those less fortunate than those who can afford to pay these taxes. the reduction in courses has a flow on effect for the teachers also. Australia loses skills and will make us the dumb country and the laughing stock of the world.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Purely and simply, they cannot afford the fees. How can anyone who is unemployed afford to pay for training? How completely irresponsible of the current LNP government.

#### **Additional comments**

Restore TAFE to where it was held in high esteem. Retain the teachers and their skills. These skills are highly required in the Australian way of life. For goodness sake, help the unemployed and the less fortunate, these are the most deserving people in our society yet they are treated as lepers by the LNP government. This is totally disgraceful

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 135**

**Elaine Cameron**

### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past Student

### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I work for an organisation that has run TAFE outreach courses and have seen the benefits to the community members who have gone on to further their studies and find employment

### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Since the funding cuts we have had no enrolments in any TAFE Outreach we have offered.

### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

It is too much of a financial burden on families and individuals, especially if they are on low incomes, or a family struggling on one income

### **Additional comments**

we found the TAFE outreach courses ran at our service mainly attracted women who wanted to return to the workforce after raising children which led to further studies and employment in most cases. The courses were always well attended. The fact that no one has enrolled since fees applied suggests that families can't stretch their budgets to pay for them. Offering good quality education for free was a great pathway to higher education.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 136**

**Steve**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE is great because they deliver the opportunity that people may not get at universities.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

clearly this has an affect on access to courses and staff

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Cost

#### **Additional comments**

Amazing how most of the decision makers on Education nowadays had free University and TAFE education arising from the Whitlam governement



**Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 137**

**Daniel Taylor**

**What is your experience of TAFE?**

I have had great experience with TAFE and further education.

**What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

It has been a great starting point for my tertiary education.

**What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Slowly courses disappeared, staff numbers and quality went down.

**Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Cost is too expensive. The Government is not funding tertiary education properly.

**Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 139**

**Robert Duffy**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student, teacher

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Second chance at education. Left at intermediate level but matriculated at night with tafe.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Cannot have classes as requirements for class size are mandated since loss of free tafe education.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Working people have difficulty with time available and extra costs are a massive further disincentive for further education.

#### **Additional comments**

Free hobby courses are also no longer available resulting in the dumbing down of our citizens

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 140**

**Wayne O'mara**

### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past Student

### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

From my course at Tafe, i designed the following roads, Gore Hill Freeway, F3 from Hornsey, concept design for M7 and Albury bypass freeway and other major road projects.

### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Loss of skills

### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

**Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 141**

**Elly Graham**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Experiences positive, good training and inexpensive. My mother was on widow's pension and would not have been able to afford high fees, as it was I was excluded from University due to living below the poverty line at the time. due to Liberal Government policies.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Seeing people unable to utilise what we had.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Not enough places, higher costs, difficult process.

#### **Additional comments**

Shame on Abbott.

**Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 141**

**Anonymous**

**What is your experience of TAFE?**

past student

**What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Easy to enrol, great enthusiastic teachers with heaps of expertise.

**What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Too many students in each class, teachers harried and not always available.

**Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Costs!!!

**Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 142**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I work as a Team Leader in campus operations and administration in a small country campus. My experience up until the reforms over the past couple of years was great place to work and enjoyed the experience of the previous 18 years.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Many years ago I had great experiences in learning as a student at TAFE and actually won awards for this course I did, teachers taught and cared about the outcomes for each of their students.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Since restructures slashed positions and TAFE NSW lost a lot of good hard working employees, put people into positions of which they had no history with or knowledge of makes it very difficult for staff to get the correct decision made. I believe there are too many managers in the system now and not enough people who actually carry out the actions of decisions or do the work that is required. Not happy with the new systems brought into place by TAFE NSW, the system has been in since 21 October 2014 and is still not working as it should. I have noticed a huge reduction in courses and so many courses having hours slashed, being put on-line now and there seems to be a lot less students in classrooms, all cost cutting in my opinion.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

I believe that the cost of courses now inhibits a lot of students from undertaking courses. TAFE NSW used to be the place where a person who could not attend university for a variety of reasons could still get an educational trade or employable qualification at a reasonable cost. It seems to me that TAFE NSW is now trying to become a university, I believe this is wrong, any wonder we are lacking in apprentices etc, it is too much.

##### **Additional comments**

We need to look after our people, not allianate them or their employees. People react better when they are supported, not demanded upon.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 143**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Librarian for over thirty years in TAFE.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

So many students returning after years away from study- find confidence and develop skills to then move on to a higher level course- or even University.

TAFE students recognise the value of the skills they learn- often at Uni they find they have a great foundation for study- and have had a hands on/practical experience, other students do not have.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Courses being reduced in hours- hard for teachers to maintain quality and depth of information in such a situation.

Many good teachers with a heart for vocational education no longer required. Casuals easier to manage in the new flexible TAFE.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

People have not yet realised that education is going to be more expensive no matter where they go. General shock at the costs for returning students in particular.

PLus- if you don't get a reduction in Smart and Skilled, the course is very expensive and may require a loan.

Down the track this will all become apparent- because the many thousands of potential students not studying will impact on numbers in trades and professions. It will also impact on quality of life for people who could have entered new professions and trades.

##### **Additional comments**

I have seen so many wonderful outcomes for students who arrived in TAFE fearful of failing; without study skills etc. TAFE has always been the second chance educator as well as a great first choice for practical and theoretical skills as foundational for future education.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 144**

**Anonymous**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a past Student of TAFE having completed three courses over the years.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE was such a great place to learn because they catered for a variety of learning abilities without the pressure of a corporate atmosphere. I had corporate all day, I didn't need it at TAFE as well.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

It has been just about impossible to make a phone inquiry. So frustrating.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

They probably can't find anyone to talk to about what best suits that persons needs.

#### **Additional comments**

Is stripping the ordinary people of TAFE really necessary/ Once corporates get their hands on it, it will be all about profit and nothing about people. There are already numerous facilities available in the private sector ... to give everyone a fairer go, just bugger off and keep away from TAFE



## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 145**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a Librarian.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Working in the library we meet people for whom TAFE is literally life changing. These people include those who have been retrenched or women who have been out of the workforce raising children and have improved work prospects after retraining. There are also many non-English speaking migrants for whom TAFE is life line to settling in Australia not only through learning English, but also meeting people outside of their ethnic community and learning about Australian culture. TAFE has a wealth of facilities and teacher experience and expertise.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

The college where I work has seen a big drop in enrollments and some courses have been axed. Non-returning students usually cite the new fee structure as being onerously expensive. For example, a Korean man who is a recent migrant to Australia told me that he is not eligible for subsidies for his English classes at TAFE because he had attained tertiary qualifications in Korea. Under the full fee structure he would need to pay \$2000 for one day per week for a term. That is \$200 per day. This man is a 60 year old retired businessman who hoped to improve his English so as to be able to participate in the workforce here. He would have excellent skills and knowledge to contribute to Australian business sector if he had fluent English, due to his contacts and knowledge of Korean business.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

See above

##### **Additional comments**

I think that the most worrying outcome of Smart and Skilled is that TAFE is reluctant to provide courses for training in the trades because of the high cost of providing tuition in those trades courses. Young people who lack the aptitude for academic theoretical learning often thrive in the trades. What will happen to those kids who have poor literacy and poor academic ability if they can't train in the trades? Will they be unable to earn a living and contribute to society and instead spend their days making trouble, filling up our jails etc? If we are not training trades people who will work in the trades? Will we need to bring in migrants to do the work?

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 146**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a past TAFE student. I have studied a Diploma in HR (3 years part time in the evening) Certificate IV in Workplace Assessment and Training (2 nights pw for 1 year) and a Certificate II in IT (3 nights pw for 1 term/6 months) I studied at my local to home TAFE as I wanted to study locally with locals, there was street parking and a bus stop near by (I would drive and park near TAFE then bus it into work and bus it back again after work to attend TAFE and then drive home safely afterwards). It was a local constant in an environment where we are losing government services in our area (eastern suburbs of Sydney although is a wealthy area there are renters under financial stress who don't want to move away from their community and also we are the most densely populated area in Australia)

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Studying locally with that local flavour, meeting local students and making local friends. TAFE adds to building local communities and connections. I found the teachers enthusiastic and professional and of very high calibre. When I needed to make enquiries about dropping a subject due to mother and my illness they were very understanding and encouraged me to continue saying there is no cut off date so don't worry if you do have to drop a subject later on. And offered where I could do the subject the following term if I needed to. I found out at the end of the course that I was going to win the award for top of the course so I think that's also why they encouraged me to stick with it rather than delay. Each time I studied it lead to improved employment opportunities. Once I was working for an organisation that was closing so rather than waiting until it closed I preempted by studying. It helped me to be redeployed. Another time it helped me out of a career doldrum where I wasn't getting anywhere due to lack of variety of work and thus not being competitive work experience wise. It was another way of providing my skills and additional referees (TAFE teachers). For some it's been a way of making contacts to get work or progress in their work.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I am not studying at TAFE and don't plan to due to the following issues:

Cost. Most courses start with a Cert III and it's \$6000 plus as most of us aren't covered by Smart and Skilled which I'd prefer to refer to as Dumb and Unskilled as that's what it will lead to. Many workers want to study whilst still working especially if their skills or industry is becoming outdated. To change careers workers have to start with a Cert III and add onto that. For workers on minimum wages who can barely afford to rent a boarding house room close to public transport there is no way they can find this type of \$\$\$\$. Also people with kids, mortgages and other commitments. Not everyone is eligible for a centrelink benefit i.e. an unemployed wife/mother.

Many courses at my local TAFE college have been discontinued. For me to study instead of driving down the street parking then travelling to my job which is 1 hour and 15 minutes away I would have

to find a TAFE somewhere that offers the course. Therefore I would have to drive. SO there are hidden costs. For example before I would drive 5-10 minutes to TAFE and 5 minutes back home costing \$1 in petrol. Now it is \$10 in petrol to and from work. \$9 parking costing \$19 per trip. Then I would have to drive somewhere else to TAFE which would be more petrol and possibly more parking and perhaps tolls so the cost of attending each night would cost me \$30 to \$40 in travel on top of the high fees plus I still need to pay for my travel by PT other days via my Opal Card. Big difference to before when it would cost \$1 per night (plus my normal weekly ticket I used anyhow which is similar cost in comparison to today) The other issue is that journey claims are no longer covered by WC so even if I am approved as a student by work (they are usually happy to when not paying any other costs or benefits in relation to my study) I'm not covered should something happen. So I am reluctant to do all that driving or travel late at night.

TAFE in the eastern suburbs of Sydney sits on prime land so developers and the state govt are probably keen to sell it off to make money. Hence probably why it's being run down so it can be closed

### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Cost

Reduction in location where courses are held so that people have to travel further from home/work, to places where there are parking costs so additional costs of travel on top of this

Also lack of availability of desired course at desired time

### **Additional comments**

I've seen private colleges offer diplomas that only go for 9-15 days and wonder how this can be equivalent. Also which private colleges despite being accredited do employers recognise. People could pay all this money to find that the course isn't recognised by employers. Some colleges don't offer evening courses, where do they think people get the money to pay for these courses. It's about skilling up our workforce to meet current and future economy needs not about making people pay for the privilege of getting a job/promotions. Employers need skilled labour, employees need skills. Showing you are keen and motivated is not enough. For disadvantaged for example working sole parents, they have had so much cut from them that when their kids grow up they need to concentrate on securing their own future rather than pay hefty fees for their kids education.

In relation to the eastern suburbs of Sydney. Over the past 25 years we have lost 2 TAFE (North Bondi and East Sydney), Legal Aid, Medicare Offices. There is threat of Privatising St Vincents Hospital. We have no govt accredited relationships counselling organisations (there are some in the city but as they serve city workers they can't offer beginning or end of the day appointments to people living in the eastern suburbs who don't work in the city. It may be argued that we are a wealthy area but we are also an extremely highly populated area therefore when providing a local service the ratio of the population to number of service providers is high. For example 1 Legal Aid to 250,000 people is equivalent to the 8 that cater for the Greater Western Sydney which has a population of 1.9m. Purely basing services in the CBD mean that we are competing against city workers from all parts of Sydney for services and this is our only option whilst elsewhere they have local options as well.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 147**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Customer Service staff at a small campus

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I have worked at TAFE for many years and was always very proud of the job we did - we could almost always be able to assist students with finding a suitable course for them to enrol in.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

We have had a reduction in support staff at our Campus and a reduction in our maintenance budget. We all get the feeling they are gradually going to close our small Campuses

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The main reason for reduced student numbers is the huge fees involved in training if you wish to make a career change. For example if someone comes in with a C4 in Hospitality and because of the lack of work in this area they decided they want to do C3 Aged care because that's where the jobs are - they are not eligible for a S & S place they might have to pay nearly \$4000

##### **Additional comments**

The EBS student enrolment system we have this year is horrendous - I don't even know where to begin with it.....

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 148**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past Student and now Teacher.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

As a student I have had the opportunity to learn a range of skills from experienced teachers using state of the art equipment. As a teacher being able to pass on my knowledge to both Trade students and interested community members in well resourced and well maintained classrooms and workshops.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Reduction in face-to-face teaching hours, reduction in allocation of resources, reduction in support staff hours leading to a decline in the maintenance of machinery and equipment resulting in some becoming unusable or barely operational.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Less course offerings and a reputation that TAFE courses do not run unless they have high enrolments. Higher TAFE fees.

##### **Additional comments**

When I commenced teaching at TAFE it was a vibrant, cheerful, clean and busy environment where everyone was happy. As a result of the NSW Governments funding cuts TAFE campuses are almost deserted and staff morale is at an all time low. Stop the TAFE cuts now!

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 149**

**Anonymous**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past Student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

The Teaching support to build encouragement and confidence.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

My reaction is that It's Retrograde my experience is that the support, teachers provided to students, became curpt compromised and teachers were working beyond their hrs to meet students' needy

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

There's no security that the course/tutors' will be funded to it's end - so do we get a HECS debt in conjunction with No qualification !?

#### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 150**

#### **Anonymous**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE education was local and with reasonable fees and good teachers and support. With the education I got from TAFE I was able to progress in my career to a management position.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I did not sign up for a course in 2015 due to cost courses.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Definitely due to the increase in cost of courses.

#### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 151**

**Anonymous**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I loved TAFE its pride & approach to giving practical informative tuition was something to be proud to be apart of! , now sadly it's all about money & dumbing down for the masses?

Son of a teacher/ principal/ regional director & a past student doing Trade/ Cert IV / advance Diploma for electrical & also great creative courses in Drawing/Painting.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Great teachers who believed in their students & shared their knowledge with pride.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

This has been ongoing since Dr Metherals reforms in the mid eighties! , I was an apprentice & remember the changes, all about destroying the public system of providing state funded education.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The costs are prohibitive, the state needs workers who are highly skilled/qualified to make small business grow but neither the State or private enterprise want to pay the initial investment ???

#### **Additional comments**

This was began by the Griener government in the Eighties & now we see the ramifications of right wing ideals, Bloody useless we're screwed!!



**Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 152**

**Anonymous**

**What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

**What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

There was a variety of course choices and it was more accessible than University.

**What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I understand course choices have been reduced and fees have sky rocketed.

**Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

**Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 153**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

past student, parent of a student

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

excellent learning experience that transferred to attaining higher level of employment. As a parent encouraged my daughter to sign up to a Cert 3 Tafe course instead of a private learning agency trying to sign her up to an online course that was not suitable to her abilities or budget.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Regional area with limited courses available for after hours

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

From my daughters experience she was a long term unemployed person being influenced by a private agency to enroll in an online overpriced course of which she would be incapable of completing and that would cost most of her Centrelink payment. I suspect the agency would receive a kick back from the government for signing up a long unemployed person. Tax payer money would be better spent on Tafe face to face courses.

##### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 154**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

i was a student in tafe for many years, also a parent, then started working in tafe hairdressing section store area

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

i have completed many courses in tafe started about 2000 up to recently. i completed courses in business administration, beauty and others. they have all been great memories, the teachers have always been highly experienced, tafe has a great learning atmosphere and supportive example library had extra help on selected days, also counselling services. i have learned so many new skills and i then went on to find part time work and was able to afford to go back and continue to do other courses part time evening to improve my job aspects

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

i am now unable to afford to continue to do short courses to update my skills as courses are now too expensive

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

i think fewer people are enrolling because of the prices if people are not on center link they are unable to afford the courses, and people on centre link have restrictions on how many courses they receive a subsidy

##### **Additional comments**

yes, i am very sad to see the younger generation do not have the access i had to tafe courses, where there is a high standard of education, I have completed all my courses at tafe and never thought of going outside tafe, because tafe was a trusted institute to deliver high standard education, it's become unattainable for the younger generation to do courses as i did, the more education the younger generation receive the more chances of getting a better job, we should be encouraging them to get an education, and get more skills to get better jobs

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 155**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Tafe gave me access to tertiary study. I am now post grad to further my employment development.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Experienced teachers passing on worlds of new knowledge.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Friend is now on one day admin work a week. Relies on welfare and government for living.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Commercial education businesses pay a lot of money to advertise for applicants. Applicants are attracted to 'guaranteed' passes for non vocational and vocational courses.

##### **Additional comments**

I support government funding to TAFE.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 156**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past Student and grandparent of a student.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I always found TAFE offered the value in education. Teachers were selected through a very competitive and fair process and all were well qualified and able too teach. The quality of the teaching programmes were always maintained at a high level and exams were very challenging and covered all aspects of the skills and knowledge expected from the student.

TAFE Colleges were always well supported by both State and Federal Governments. These were the days that good education for all Australians had a priority over unachievable budgets. This is slowly coming to an end however and will have devastating results on the quality of education for all Australians.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

TAFE Collages seem to be more inclined to concentrate on balancing the books rather than maintaining the quality of education. Subcontracting out educational services and student support will only reduce the standards of education and frustrate the student into accepting only what is offered, with no guarantee of employment for the future.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

People want to gain qualifications for future work. Vocational guidance is a thing of the past and people don't want to study and then find that there are no jobs available. All TAFE training should have vocational guidance implications.

##### **Additional comments**

There are o a lot of training contractors cashing in on the Government's new educational policies and they aim to get a many students as possible through the these courses as possible and as quick as possible. I don't believe that the quality of this education is that of the old TAFE scheme and students are only a number.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 157**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Teachers are very supportive

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

When the cuts started, I have difficulty in getting enrolled in the subjects needed to finish my course back then.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Because the future as a tradesmen is becoming increasingly difficult specially now that they will allow overseas workers from China.

##### **Additional comments**

Cutting down on benefits and number of workers is the governments target and they still want you to do more work than you can handle thats not right.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 158**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I don't have personal experience but am dismayed at the cut in full time staff, the reduction in funding and courses, the increase in fees.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I know of low income people who were able to complete their HSC, retrain in another trade/profession and go on to make a decent living through TAFE courses.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I worry that the staff has been casualised, that courses are reduced, that fees have increased.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Because it is no longer seen as a viable / affordable alternative to university.

##### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 159**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I have Acquired learning outcomes through tafe nsw they are dedicated to help and nurture students at all levels, And not dollar orientated

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

acheived certificate 4 management

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

all of the above are affected now and will become far worse if funding is cut

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

because the government has a policy of reducing funds and access to students which in turn makes tafe look unviable and gives them a reason to wind up tafe

##### **Additional comments**

liberal governments cut cut cut and erode services to the working and underpriviledged



## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 160**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

As an OTEN tutor I have taught people with disabilities; as a student I have studied in TAFE classrooms and in a workplace-based course; as a parent, my child studied to diploma level at TAFE

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Small courses, student-focused, conveniently available, great staff, good online facilities

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Reduced number of courses available in my local area or online

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Expense

##### **Additional comments**

TAFE courses are practical and hands-on; TAFE staff are focused on practical training - if anything TAFE should be expanded

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 161**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I did my EN course through North Sydney (Gore Hill) TAFE in the 90's. Also did a personal interest course at Ultimo TAFE, also in mid 90's.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I completed my EN through North Sydney TAFE and Northern Sydney Health in 1994-5. I loved my TAFE components, it gave us a chance to learn our trade initially, then after we had been on placement we came back and talked and learned some more. I felt fully prepared to go out and be a nurse, I was supported by great staff and the information we were given was relevant to my field.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I recently completed a Cert IV in Workplace Training through an online provider as it was not really available at a TAFE, the hours were inflexible and it was awfully expensive. Had there been flexible hours I would have paid more to go through TAFE as I feel they are a reputable trainer and i prefer face to face.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

TAFE courses are very expensive compared to others, many employers want qualifications and I feel many students are going to university and doing generalised degree's to cover a variety of fields as a safety net. It is getting harder and harder to get a job without qualifications, TAFE costs as much as uni so people go to uni and get the higher qualification.

##### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 162**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student from the mid to late 1980s when enrolment was FREE to get more advanced qualifications.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I worked full time in the NSW public service and gave up nights and weekends to get two certificates and two full diplomas. I was asked to teach a class at the end.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I have no experience with the recent slashing of TAFE funding. But the cuts and introduced charges were bemoaned a long time back when meeting with former classmates. We felt sorry for the newer students and those who could not afford to become students to get a better job.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Charges.

##### **Additional comments**

No.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 163**

**Anonymous**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I'm a 'parent-in-law' (sort of) of a student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Seeing others in the Tafe courses increase in knowledge, responsibility and employability.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I know that the funding has reduced the number of courses and increased the teachers' workloads which cannot be good for education.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Tafe is getting pretty expensive. I'm surprised numbers are down because we need people trained in skills like construction, plumbing, etc.

#### **Additional comments**

I'm a uni academic, and I think cutting TAFE is ridiculous. At this point, the country needs TAFE as much or more than unis!

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 164**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Teacher, current and past student and parent

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

When I first left school in 1977 TAFE was the only college that offered me the chance to get a vocational education. My family was very poor and without the great TAFE system at the time, I would probably have ended up working in a factory or shop as a unskilled worker. Since that time, TAFE has offered courses to my community, my family and friends and myself that have enabled us to have an affordable qualification so that we could enter the Australian workplace. TAFE qualifications were always well regarded by employers.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

The local TAFE is now a ghost town. The very large campus in SW Sydney is now empty. Half of the staff are gone. Courses can only be offered if there are enough students, the fees are very high. The most concern I have and others I work with have is that the private colleges are offering expensive, low quality education and is not well regarded by industry.

In the long run the taxpayers will pay for the blow-out in private education costs that will be deferred on the tax system. If students can't find a job when they complete the private courses, the cost will be incurred by the States.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Vocational education has been downgraded in importance. The push for students to enter universities is the current trend. Many apprentices, like my son, have experienced insecurity in the jobs, therefore they can't continue vocational education if they're not employed. My son is now 27. He had enough of the bullying, low pay and constant job searching because unscrupulous employers wanted to and have taken advantage of young trainees and apprentice by not paying them their dues & exploiting. He is now working for the army. I believe this is the reason that numbers have fallen. The government needs to investigate small business providers and their shonky recruitment, training and payment practices.

##### **Additional comments**

Last year while TAFE staff were told that there would be staff & funding cuts, the quadrangle at Campbelltown TAFE was been dug up and replaced at a cost of \$300,000. Absurd, how can the State government explain that one?

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 165**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I have studied at TAFE. I am also a Careers Adviser and recommend TAFE for students who would suit a vocational plan of tertiary study.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

The teacher quality at TAFE is of a high calibre and you are assured that your qualifications are recognised everywhere. They are very supportive of students especially those who need more care and consideration.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I am unable to continue the course I started due to fee increase. I have also understood that the HSC course has had staff cuts.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Usually TAFE is a course for those that are not overly academic and may not be able to afford University. The government has made TAFE out of reach for so many.

##### **Additional comments**

As a Careers Adviser I have found some private tertiary providers to be like sharks. They promise a lot and prey on people of a lower socio economic background. Taking their money and government money but not delivering. Not all providers are quality or reputable and they take a lot of public money that should be going where it benefits the public the most.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 166**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a past student

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I received my qualifications as an electrician at TAFE, or back then, Technical College. I also received further qualifications as an Electronics technician, which I used until I retired.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

My time at Tech College was a long time ago, thankfully before any funding cuts.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

It appears to me that trade apprentices are not paid enough. The pay is abysmal.

And the pay for tradies, as an employee, are not much better. Shouldn't the guy building your house be paid more than the guy packing shelves at the local supermarket.

##### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 167**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I have been a past student and currently work with a number of apprentices.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

The processes are universal across the courses, once you get use to this it doesn't matter what course you want to do the underlying process is the same. This would encourage students to use TAFE for further learning.

The teachers are professional and knowledgeable. In my case they came from the industry, so first hand knowledge was key.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

We have been finding it difficult to find courses for our apprentices to attend to cover the trade we do. The trade still exists but due to smaller numbers and funding cuts to TAFE it has immaturely dwindled in intakes.

The TAFE has been very good in doing everything possible to keep the teaching going for our apprentices. The course has had to be modified (dumbed down) which does nothing for us or the students but it was a compromise we had to take in order to keep some form of recognised training going for our apprentices.

The TAFE was hamstrung by cuts to it's budget. I'm sure we are not the only trade taking hits like this.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

I think there has been a push away from vocational education numbers due to the fact our current government would like everyone to go to university and pay for everything themselves. This would save the government millions and help it get to that magic surplus its looking for. This is why the TAFE system has been cut to bare minimum.

Unfortunately you don't get good print trade workers or diesel mechanics from universities.

This is why the trades are in such desperate need of well trained new people and why industries are crying out for good tradies.

I also believe the TAFE system is a reliable system with checks and balances that ensure well rounded trades, managers and other vocations are met for the current job market. I'm not sure of the credentials of a lot of private training groups. I have experienced a couple of these, and while they say their training and student education is at the top of their priorities I have experienced a



reality that is more number based and therefore money based, regardless of eventual outcome for the student.

**Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 168**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Myself, my husband, my siblings, my friends have all studied at TAFE and have TAFE qualifications that have given us our start in our careers. Some of us have trades and others went on to further studies.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE has been known for preparing students for the work force. It is further studies combined with hands on training.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I have a friend who works at a TAFE and her hours have dropped. Her responsibilities have increased because she now has to take on other duties to stay in a job.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

People are losing their faith in TAFE because the government has. Private colleges popping up everywhere are being managed by family businesses with unqualified staff and promising work at the end of the course. These businesses may not be around in 5 years time. TAFE has been around for over 100 years and hopefully continue for another 100 years.

##### **Additional comments**

TAFE is an institution that is recognised anywhere in Australia. A TAFE qualification signified good training and skills in preparation for work. It should be revered and supported, not dismembered and discarded.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 169**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Student.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

The quality of teaching and the services available including library and practical clinic experience.

I found the FTF to be extremely valueable.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I beleive the course I have just completed was halved in face to face time, and doubled in fees.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Simply because the fees have DOUBLED !!!!!

##### **Additional comments**

The fees are astronomical and this doesn't make sense to me. I thought anyone had access to a good education. Seems I was wrong.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 170**

**Anonymous**

### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

PAST STUDENT

### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

THE PROVISION OF TRAINING AND FURTHER EDUCATION TO THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO NEVER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENROL IN TERTIARY EDUCATION

### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

HUGE REDUCTION IN COURSES AND FULL TIME STAFF

### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

COURSES ARE NOT OFFERED IN AREAS WHERE THEY WERE PREVIOUSLY CONDUCTED; LESS PLACES AVAILABLE; INCREASE IN COURSE COSTS

### **Additional comments**

IT IS A DISGRACE THAT ANY GOVERNMENT WOULD LET THE TAFE SYSTEM BE DISMANTLED AS THIS GOVERNMENT IS DOING. KEEP VOCATIONAL TRAINING OUT OF THE HANDS OF FOR PROFIT PROVIDERS.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 171**

**Anonymous**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

A great way to bridge knowledge between school and university or employment, and to update skills.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

These cuts make it increasingly difficult to engage students and an increase in fees is making it difficult for some students to afford. Good students should have an equal opportunity to education regardless of financial status.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Increased costs

#### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 172**

**Anonymous**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

recent student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

the staff and teachers were all very professional, efficient and knowledgeable - the course I attended was very useful although it will be mandatory in the future to just keep my job

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

the course I did last year increased by over double this year (which would have made it unaffordable for me and would eventually cause the loss of my job)

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

its expensive

#### **Additional comments**

its a shame that the people who benefited from free education think that now it should be almost unaffordable for most Australians

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 173**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a past student.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

In the late 1970's I left school and completed an apprenticeship in Automotive Electrics. TAFE enabled me to become a qualified Automotive Electrician. 28 years later, I went back to TAFE and learned a new skill. I am now a qualified Building Surveyor. TAFE has played a big part in my life.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Not affected in my experience.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

It is becoming more expensive.

##### **Additional comments**

Make education available to everyone, not just the ones who can afford it. Give the under privileged a chance at a better life.

**Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 174**

**Anonymous**

**What is your experience of TAFE?**

As a past career student of TAFE I realize that without continuing Education Australia is doomed to become a nation of transient itinerant workers.

**What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

**What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

**Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

**Additional comments**



## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 175**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I have studied several Cert 3 & 4 courses at Tafe and all have improved my career opportunities

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Well priced (it was anyway) socially connected, great lecturers and facilities. TAFE forms a communal hub in most urban areas around Australia. private colleges do not

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

More expensive and harder for staff as they had no idea what was happening next. What an incredibly distasteful way to treat staff

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Because some private colleges have priced TAFE's out of the market. However I know that smaller private colleges do not have libraries or the support facilities to manage students, however they advertise with a glamour edge. Just think if we rolled those resources into TAFE.. the mind boggles

##### **Additional comments**

I have found the closing of courses unjustified because senior citizens may have been attending smaller course and they are no able to. These trade and communal course bring a richness to our society and if managed properly by successful government, we could have an award winning education system

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 176**

**Anonymous**

### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a past student of TAFE

### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I was able to obtain my Associate Diploma through TAFE and I wouldn't have been able to change my life like I have without it.

### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

The course I did at TAFE many years ago was only available at 2 TAFE colleges in NSW so if that particular course was reduced I would have had to do it through a University. I couldn't have done that as a single Mum of 3 boys.

### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Too many welfare payments so they don't have to go

### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 177**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student. I think TAFE has offered an excellent option to people of all ages to get the education they want or need.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I've found TAFE to be really supportive of my learning needs, at a price that I could afford as a single parent.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I've got a sister and a daughter who have been at TAFE this year, one in NSW and one in Vic. Both of them have found it a very frustrating experience. Interestingly, they've both complained about poor communication, between tutors and students, and it appeared to be just as bad within the organisation.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

IT IS TOO EXPENSIVE!!

##### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 178**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I have been a student twice at tafe and found it a great assistance and learning place

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

learning in a friendly environment new friends new careers

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

my son is an apprentice and now enrolled with a community college instead of tafe which I find shouldn't happen

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

fees too high

##### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 179**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Our son attended TAFE and gained his carpentry qualification. We have family employed in TAFE and other family members who have successfully studied there.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE has been a wonderful experience for our son and led to his successful completion of his trade in carpentry. He was given explicit expert theoretical and practical guidance through his trade in a safe and caring setting.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Our daughter would like to study at TAFE and will need to go an extra half an hour to do a course as the local campuses no longer offer the same instruction. She has been inundated with offers to sign up for questionable private providers with promise of an iPad and fees never needing repaying as it would be unlikely she would enter a profession earning enough.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Difficulty accessing TAFE as private providers have a reputation for being less adequate and leaving students Illawarra-prepared for the workplace. Increased cost of courses and less local availability of TAFE is disappointing to many.

##### **Additional comments**

TAFE provided a great tier in educating our future workforce to a very high standard. We have a business model of running tertiary education which sees students never having to repay HECS etc due to never earning enough or gaining employment due to there being little demand in their areas of study. My tax is being wasted on an unemployable generation with little regard for the needs of employers. Need to use Census data and demographics and train to the highest level in foreseeable areas of demand and stop creating a generation of students who will never be gainfully employed in their chosen endeavours! TAFE has been a great source of equality in our society and not everyone is suited to university level studies.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 180**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Two of my sons did TAFE courses, one after leaving school, the other as a VET student in senior high school.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Both sons gained employment and useful skills through their courses.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Both access and financial considerations.

##### **Additional comments**

We need skilled tradespeople and another way for students who find school is not right for them.

**Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 181**

**Anonymous**

**What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student.

**What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Broad range of learning opportunities for anyone in the community at a reasonable cost.

**What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

**Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

**Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 182**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student but it gave me the confidence of starting study again after many years of not further my education to then go onto University and achieve Post Graduate Degree.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

That I was able to study and complete subjects on-line.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

My son is going into Year 11 next year and we are hoping that he will be able to complete a TVET course that will give him qualifications relevant to work placement.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Expense would probably be the biggest factor I would think.

##### **Additional comments**

We need an educated country.



## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 183**

#### **Anonymous**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Employed by TAFE

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE provided many young people from very disadvantaged backgrounds a second opportunity at gaining a valuable education. Over the years I saw many young people change their lives and go onto further study and employment after re-engaging in education at TAFE. It was a supportive learning environment that cared. I have also witnessed many women come back to study after many years of being out of the workforce and education. They benefitted from the pathway approach of building confidence and self esteem and building basic learning to enable them to go onto further study and skills development. TAFE also provided a lot of people from local industries with competencies and skills that industry valued due to the quality of the education they received. TAFE has provided an alternative pathway to study at university level for those who are unable to survive the school system or those who are older. TAFE has provided much needed courses for skill shortage industries and needs to tackle this even more. The infrastructure exists to do this. In the past TAFE has been able to provide much needed support services such as counselling to students. this has helped change people's lives for the better and help people complete study and go onto become a functioning and contributing member of their local community.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Reduction in courses and number of hours, reduction in staffing, reduction in support staff. Low morale. Business model overriding common sense and learning model sometimes.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

this year TAFENSW has had two systems imposed on it that made it very hard to operate efficiently and effectively. These have been Smart & Skilled and the EBS. It has been hugely problematic and forced onto all of TAFE throughout NSW. It has made enrolments very difficult. The two of them together were really bad timing as the two systems were not designed to talk to each other and has increased the workload extraordinarily. It has not been a level playing field.

#### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 184**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

My first course after I left school was a TAFE course.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

It is affordable and enables students to get a job.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

It is inconvenient and expensive to travel further for a particular course and impossible to get work in a field without training as it is no longer available.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The courses needed are not available any more.

##### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 185**

**Anonymous**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Personal interest eg sewing and photography and cooking.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Very positive . Done in in the 1980's . Not connected to my job in any way but something I wanted to do.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Disgraceful. Is Australia going to become a third world country next? Like her or not Julia Gillard pushed very hard for education and I admired her for it. If Bill Shorten wants to be P.M. He needs to com up with some decent policies, e.g. Health, education, pensions, law and order, roads, public transport etc. I am telling you this as a long time Labor voter. Even my Labor voting friends don't for whom to vote. A word to the wise!

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Places are harder to obtain.

#### **Additional comments**

Let's make One Term Tony one term.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 186**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a high school teacher and did not teach at TAFE. However, over the years, I encountered many former students who had not been keen to apply themselves at school but returned to TAFE when they were a few years older. This enabled them to go on to successful careers instead of a lifetime of unemployment.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I live midway between Berry and Nowra on the south coast of NSW. This area has high youth unemployment as well as relatively high numbers of young women trying to finish their education as mature age students after leaving school and having children while relatively young. TAFE provides opportunities for young and mature age people as well as students whose gifts lie in technical rather than academic areas. Not everyone can or should go on to University and TAFE used to provide affordable educational opportunities in numerous rural and regional areas so that students don't have to leave their local area to learn.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Dapto TAFE, in the Illawarra area has been terribly badly affected and student numbers have dropped alarmingly. Courses have become prohibitively expensive and in some cases have been discontinued midway so that even those students who can afford the grossly inflated fees have been left high and dry. I personally know of many teachers who've worked at TAFE for their entire career and are now out of a job. Staff numbers have been drastically reduced.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

There are far fewer students enrolling in TAFE because useful courses have been discontinued and those courses which have continued are up to ten times more expensive than they were before.

##### **Additional comments**

The whole country is going to suffer because of these vicious cuts to technical education - there is already a shortage of skilled tradesmen and this will only get worse with the dearth of TAFE courses.. Perhaps this will fit neatly with the Federal government's obvious plan to bring in unqualified foreign tradesmen who will work for below award wages but we are risking the OH&S of these workers and those around them.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 187**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

As a student I learned about Computers & improved my chances of getting a job. I got a job which I would not have got unless I had completed the course at TAFE. My son did start up courses throughout year 11 & 12 then became an Apprentice.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

It was so good I went back to do further courses. Small classes. Experienced teachers. Relaxed atmosphere.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Just hearing about this & TAFES being closed makes me sick. Choices are important.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

##### **Additional comments**

People making these cuts got free education back in history. Education is for those who can afford it.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 188**

**Anonymous**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past Student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Pathway to Trade Certificate.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Friend is a TAFE teacher, no students for his class, has to find other employment.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Too expensive

#### **Additional comments**

NSW Liberal government has dramatically and quickly cut services and funding across the State since they have been in government. Is adopting the American model of low wages and a majority capitalist system the best direction for Australia. The Scandinavian system/s of high taxes, free health, free education, the government having untold wealth as a result of the taxes, appears the better model for me. This would abolish any government revenue problems. Low unemployment and low crime also is a result also.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 189**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I was a past student.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I did studies over the years with my local Tafe, the teachers were always supportive and the encouragement they gave was greatly received.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Over the past years I have seen our local tafe reduce courses, so that now young people need to travel greater distances, and mature students miss out because they can not always utilise the Tafe miles away, work hours stop this.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The local Tafe doesn't always have courses that you want and the one that does is often too far away.

##### **Additional comments**

Rural students need access to further education that is affordable and accessible not all rural areas have public transport between towns, nor do they have private transport. If we want people to work and contribute to workforce make it easier not harder to get the qualifications that they need.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 190**

#### **Anonymous**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Teacher, Past student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I loved TAFE for its commitment to meaningful training and its dedication to imparting and improving educational and technical training across a diverse social mix of citizens. The absence of a private profit motive in TAFE delivery allowed a much greater flexibility and therefore understanding and communications in teacher student interaction.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I am now part time (guest lectures) and I have had a number of courses and course events cut in my specific skills area. The teachers (past colleagues) who remain in TAFE have sustained such savage cuts to their training areas that many are dispirited and close to calling it quits. The feeling seems to be that the government wants to kill off TAFE and basically privatise the entire training system.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Fees are exceptionally high, teaching services have been cut, support services cut. Many industries have sought to lower training standards and cut course duration and content in order to gain only the narrow skills that specific industry wants - in other words, industry has is not interested in a broadly and diverse skilled workforce. The balance has moved too far to favouring the employers profit needs at the expense of the students diversity of knowledge and broad based skills to set themselves for a lifetime of employee, went rather than merely skilled for one narrow field.

#### **Additional comments**

After leaving full time TAFE teaching I spent 27 years in private and local government technician employment. Across every field of skill that I encountered - and there were many such - I found the private provider trained personnel had significantly lower skills than those trained in the TAFE system.



## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 191**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

TEACHER - PART TIME (FOR 30 YEARS!!)

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE PROVIDES EVERYONE THE OPPORTUNITY OF A RELIABLE, CURRENT, VARIED, POSITIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE.

I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH MANY STUDENTS WHO HAVE HAD LITTLE PRIOR EDUCATION, STUDY AT TAFE AND THEN SECURE EMPLOYMENT. THOSE SAME STUDENTS OFTEN RETURN TO BUILD ON THEIR INITIAL TRAINING SO THEY CAN KEEP PACE WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

OTHERS WHO HAVE HAD NO CONFIDENCE IN THEIR ABILITY TO LEARN ENTER INTO THE TAFE ENVIRONMENT, WHICH PROVIDES SO MUCH SUPPORT - MOVE FORWARD, SOME EVENTUALLY ENTERING INTO A UNIVERSITY DEGREE - THAT IS WHAT TAFE CAN DO FOR PEOPLE. I DON'T SEE SMALL PROVIDERS DOING THE SAME JOB.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

FUNDING CUTS ARE JUST STARTING TO BITE VERY HARD. I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN TEACHING A LOT OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. BEFORE, I WAS GUARANTEED THAT ALL STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY WERE ABLE TO SECURE SUPPORT, THAT IS NO LONGER THE CASE. THERE JUST ISN'T THE MONEY.

IT SEEMS A STRANGE WAY TO MANAGE PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY, SURELY WE WANT TO ALLOW THEM TO REACH THEIR EMPLOYMENT POTENTIAL AND GET OFF BENEFITS. WITHOUT SUPPORT THEY WILL NEVER ACHIEVE THIS.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

BECAUSE IT IS BECOMING TOO EXPENSIVE. IF A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT DOESN'T RECEIVE SUPPORT IN FEES THEY OFTEN CANNOT AFFORD TO STUDY.

I SEE THE WORKING POOR AS A PERFECT EXAMPLE. YOU HAVE MUM AND DAD WHO ARE BOTH WORKING AND THEIR TEENAGER WANTS TO DO A TAFE COURSE. HOWEVER, THEY DON'T QUALIFY FOR ANY EXEMPTIONS - THEY CANNOT FIND THE EXTRA MONEY TO GIVE TO JUST ONE CHILD, WHEN THEY PROBABLY HAVE OTHERS AT HOME

##### **Additional comments**

IT IS SHORTSIGHTED MANAGEMENT. EDUCATION SHOULDN'T BE FOR PROFIT, I AGREE THAT IT SHOULDN'T BE RUN AT A LOSS, BUT WHENEVER YOU MAKE IT ABOUT THE MONEY YOU WILL

ALWAYS HAVE UNSCRUPULOUS PROVIDERS WHO SEE IT ONLY AS MAKING MONEY FOR THEMSELVES, NOT ABOUT EDUCATING PEOPLE AND IMPROVING THEIR LIFE AND JOB PROSPECTS.

WE NEED TO MAKE PEOPLE SMARTER AND THAT CAN TAKE TIME. TAFE HAS PICKED UP A LOT OF THE PEOPLE THE SCHOOL SYSTEM NEVER DEALT WITH. PEOPLE WHO DO ALL THAT SCHOOLING, BUT CAN'T READ AND WRITE. IN THE PAST TAFE HAS BEEN THERE TO HELP THEM, I DON'T THINK THAT IS THE CASE ANY MORE. WHAT HAPPENS TO THESE PEOPLE? THEY JUST BECOME UNEMPLOYABLE AND HAVE A LIFE ON WELFARE. IT SEEMS THAT A FEW YEARS OF TAFE FEES WOULD BE CHEAPER THAN A LIFETIME OF WELFARE.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 192**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Parent of TAFE students

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

giving my daughters the option of furthering their careers via training without the exorbitant cost of university fees

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

the so called new computer system is very clunky and un-usable. My youngest daughter has commented that friends of hers are struggling to pay the increased fees!

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

less options and higher charges

##### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 193**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I have a son who is in his second year of an electrical apprenticeship - second year of three years at TAFE.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

The teachers going above and beyond what is required of them. It is more than a job to some of the teachers.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

My sons hours have been cut, the tutoring at night time after work has also been cut. The costs have risen sharply.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The cannot afford it! We are not in the city and TAFE is the only way some of our kids will get a skill and get a job. Unemployment is so high and people cannot afford it.

##### **Additional comments**

If TAFE has to compete with private county NSW will suffer. The politicians have forgotten that they are here for everyone not just the cities!.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 194**

**Anonymous**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Parent

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE has qualified and experienced teachers in the field that ensures our students get the best outcome.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Shocking TAFE needs to be supported as it provides qualified and experienced workforce that ensures our students get the best outcome.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Too expensive and the equality is not there. the courses provided by private sector usually take quarter of the time and cost three times more. Its become buy a qualification and students come out with very little skills and safety and extensive knowledge has been lost.

#### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 195**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a parent of an apprentice, who couldn't get any training other than through TAFE.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

University is very abstract and he wants to understand the material before he tries to design with it. He is loving the practical work and doing well in the course.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

My son's trainer was sacked near the end of the course as he was near retirement so they said he had to go. He was very good and it was very sad what happened to him

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

It is very hard to get an apprenticeship and you have to work hard with very little training on the job except in the specific way that company uses their machines. This does not help people learn for life. TAFE does that but the job situation is very poor.

##### **Additional comments**

My son will also go to TAFE to redo his HSC maths if he decides to go back to University when he is working.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 196**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

i am a past student of TAFE and a past employer of people for an office environment.

my own training set me up well for a career that eventually led me to becoming a CEO.

in my position as GM I was regularly seeking good employees and in almost every case found that TAFE trained people were able to hit the ground running.

you are systematically destroying what was a fine institution and replacing it with privately run, expensive colleges that are sometimes dubious in their credentials.

why would you do that!

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

my training set me up well in a career that eventually led to me becoming a CEO.

in my position as GM I was regularly seeking good, well trained employees and in almost every case found that TAFE trained people were able to hit the ground running.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

##### **Additional comments**

you are systematically destroying what was once a fine institution and replacing it with privately run, expensive colleges that are sometimes dubious in their credentials.

Why would you do that!

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 197**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Grandparent of a student

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE is accessible as it is in every major and some minor centres. It enables kids who did not do well at school to obtain a qualification in an adult education environment.

As TAFE is run for the benefit of students, not the hip pocket of share holders and this must be preserved to ensure people from all economic backgrounds have access to higher education. To privatise TAFE is to exclude the most vulnerable prospective students

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

We found courses my grand daughter interested in, were no longer available and we had difficulty in speaking to anyone about our concerns.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The website is difficult to navigate and wrong choices are common. This results in vulnerable clients giving up and feeling stupid. There are not enough people available to give phone advice and vocational guidance as well.

##### **Additional comments**

Please ensure that TAFE as we know it lives on for the benefit of students and not to line the pockets of the many unethical and greedy training providers.



## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 198**

#### **Anonymous**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

I Completed a TVET course as part of my HSC & continued on to complete my cert4 & diploma in the following years. During TAFE studies it is a requirement to complete work experience hours. I was placed in a government department. After my workplacement was over the department asked me to stay on. 5 years on I am now a permanent full time employee for the government department i did work experience through.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

i am aware of a few other services providing other avenues of education (in Dubbo Western College)

#### **Additional comments**

**Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 199**

**Anonymous**

**What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past Student

**What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Instructors that have industry experience not just book learning.

**What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

**Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

**Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 200**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Tafe was current, flexible and affordable for those trying to work and learn

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Tafe teachers are keen to assist and support students with flexible learning options.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

increased costs of courses, reduced number of courses available and less teaching staff now

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

cost is too high, number of courses are reduced and TAFE services are not locally available anymore

##### **Additional comments**

Concerning that the fundamental education of Australians is not a priority of state or federal governments

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 201**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

TAFE has given me and my family the opportunity to become skilled workers with qualifications that are recognised world wide and have successful professional lives. Whether it be a trade qualification or the opportunity to upskill or change careers, TAFE has been the first point of call for people in rural and regional Australia to create opportunity with professional development.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

From the quality of the teachers and their ability to engage learners to the standard of the facilities to learn in a professional environment. Australians are fortunate that the long history of TAFE has been able to provide the opportunity to gain skills and knowledge which needs to be retained.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

TAFE has provided rural and regional Australia with not only training but also employment for skilled people in rural areas. Decreasing the funding reduces the opportunity for people to participate in training and the associated available employment opportunities in regional and remote areas of Australia.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The cost to enrol and the availability of classes. With the massive reduction in funding where this service now has to operate on a business model, there is no (or little) community commitment to provide training in rural and remote areas. Online learning might be the buzz at the moment but not for everyone. Access to the internet is not a given across Australia and the digital literacy skills required to learn online are not inherent in everyone. Most people need a teacher to guide their learning. Without funding for teachers in front of a class, we will have a deskilled Australia.

##### **Additional comments**

Education and training is a service to build and develop society. It is not a business. If there is a belief that Australia should be a skilled nation - we need to fund the skilling of the nation so the goal can be reached. And not just in metropolitan areas where profitable training companies can survive. All Australians deserve the same opportunity as a right - not a privilege.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 202**

**Anonymous**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

All of the above

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Positive until liberal government destroyed it !! Education should be dr for all as everyone is equal at Tafe !

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

No work lack of staff and poor student outcomes now due to full fee paying routs

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Because of cost

#### **Additional comments**

Return Tafe to pre 1993 !! Get real about the loss of Tafe !

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 203**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I am a past student of TAFE, having studied and completed multiple engineering associate and advanced diplomas.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

My experience of TAFE has been excellent, both in WA as well as NSW and I sincerely hope it will continue to be available for current and future students in Australia.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

While I have completed my studies some years ago, I fear for the existing and future students as the cost of education for me was very reasonable compared to the current costs for students now.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

##### **Additional comments**

I am concerned the current government has little or no vision for the future, and is happy to sacrifice the quality of education to make the books look good for now.

We need to invest in education and jobs locally, for local people to further Australia. When will this government start to look at true leadership and dedication towards improving Australia, rather than trashing everything in its path?

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 204**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

As a student and later as a teacher, the quality of TAFE training has been superior compared to the outside training providers which I have experienced. It is so sad as to what has happened to the TAFE system.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

The skills and qualifications I have gained through training at TAFE have helped me to attain the career path which I pursued. The training was intense and satisfying and the teachers were always supportive and really knew the subject they were teaching. As a teacher standards of teaching were set so as to enable students to gain their chosen qualification.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

At Wetherill Park TAFE, night classes in Business Administration were cut which meant many students were unable to gain qualifications they needed. My grand-daughter did a Cert 3 in Child Care with a private provider. The standard of teaching was very poor and course content was very poor. She completed the course in just 3 months. My daughter did the same course through TAFE. It took 6 months and the course was very intense and the standard very high. You would feel confident knowing that a qualification was achieved through TAFE training.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

People just cannot afford the TAFE fees together with TAFE course being withdrawn due to funding cuts. It is just disgraceful what has happened to TAFE and in a few years there will be an increase in unskilled and unqualified people.

##### **Additional comments**

The government needs a kick in the backside to restore funding to TAFE and to see the destruction they have caused to the tertiary education system. Shame on them!!!!

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 205**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

As a past student I completed few short courses from tafe which helped me a lot to upgrade my skills.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

It was great. Teachers were always very helpful and positive. Being a full time working adult they were very flexible to accommodate my needs.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Reduction in support services and less courses specially in regional areas.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Fees has been increased a lot for short term courses which makes it less affordable.

##### **Additional comments**



## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 206**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Student for 6years and a staff member for 33 years

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Quailty training experienced staff recognised qualifications.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Student numbers reduced more then advertised , Massive job cuts teachers and Support staff.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Introduction of new business systems that are not working,Hi course costs , Provide providers.  
Confusion on enrolling due to processes. Support staff reduction customer service.

##### **Additional comments**

Shame Shame . Its the descruction of tAFE

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 207**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I have been a teacher, a student and the aunt of a student.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Practical, mostly vocational courses taught by people with hands on experience. No pretensions, let's get stuck into what you need to know. Courses were available to all and affordable for everyone. People were able to do the courses as a pathway to further education or to improve work skills: something for all.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Reduction in courses, variety of courses, available times for courses. Fewer contact hours and very limited support services. Courses cut in the middle of terms.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Courses either not available or at times that suit working people. Apparently similar courses put together unsatisfactorily. Lack of support. Too expensive. Less practical and suitable as teachers not employed or forced to teach in areas not their specialty. More about profit than students.

##### **Additional comments**

Why is good, practical education being destroyed? How are our future workers going to learn their trades? Apprenticeships have disappeared as well.

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 208**

#### **Anonymous**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Parent

Health professional

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE provided my son with an alternate pathway to do his HSC

equivalent when the school system was too hard for him despite having the ability . He is now at university I despaired that this would not happen for him

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Sad move for kids like mine who could not cope with school system

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Cost clearly and course availability ....In my work these courses are the only means for education , skill building for some that cannot work ie individuals mental ill health , poor education , disability intellectual and physical etc . These courses assist with their wellbeing and connectedness in society

.

#### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 209**

#### **Anonymous**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past Student

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE gave me the best hands-on training that I have ever experienced. School gives you such a broad education, while TAFE has engaged students and teachers making for a positive learning experience

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

It has been a few years since attending a TAFE course so none of these things have affected me. BUT if they are affecting current students, it is not something that is good for anyone involved in their education

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

The cost of courses have gone up quite a bit. TAFE was a great way to get a decent education for lower prices

#### **Additional comments**

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 210**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

My son attends TAFE and you can be assured that every student properly attended and completed the requirements of the course.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

TAFE offers a range of options for careers you may not have ever considered before.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

My husband was studying spraypainting and automotive body repairs firstly at Granville, then that closed and he moved to Wetherill Park TAFE. Now that closed too and the nearest place is now Campbelltown which is too far to travel. Our trade courses are being cut to make way for more IT courses. Too many people are graduating in IT and there is not enough work for them. We need more trade courses in accessible areas.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

people get through the other courses easier when they are not at TAFE. My son undertook an aged care certificate with            College who were absolutley wonderful and he learned so much. He undertook a similar course with            and they virtually just passed everyone through without ever meeting any requirements. And every few months are a new bunch of graduates. I would hate to be in aged care and be looked after by someone trained in            because the standard would be really low.

##### **Additional comments**

Unless the government is able to closely regulate the private providers the quality will continue to slip and people will go to the shonky providers. Why would you go to TAFE where you have to actually turn up, do your assignments and pass what is required when a private provider just lets you on through?

## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 211**

#### **Anonymous**

##### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

Past student studying Human Resources Certificate. I was working fulltime and supporting a young family and couldn't be away from home travelling long distances to higher tertiary institutions. TAFE was just up the road.

##### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

It was geographically accessible, it was cost effective as a student and gave a practical alternative to high cost tertiary education. Please keep TAFE.

##### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

I can't answer this.

##### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Not sure but suspect it might be negative reports about TAFE not being an alternative to university (which it is).

##### **Additional comments**

Please keep TAFE.

**Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 212**

**Anonymous**

**What is your experience of TAFE?**

Parent of a student and past teacher

**What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

Excellent for students who need a more hands-on, less academic approach than uni

**What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

Reduction in courses

**Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

**Additional comments**

**Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

**Submission 213**

**Anonymous**

**What is your experience of TAFE?**

**What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

**What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

**Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

**Additional comments**

Good quality vocational training is essential to the prosperity of NSW and you are overseeing its decline



## **Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in NSW**

### **Submission 214**

#### **Anonymous**

#### **What is your experience of TAFE?**

I have two sons. One who did two nursing courses through TAFE - Cert 3 and Endorsed Enrolled Nurse.

Other son is doing TAFE Electrical apprenticeship attending TAFE weekly.

Both my sons are employed as a result of the TAFE system.

#### **What are your positive experiences of TAFE?**

My sons have been able to obtain employment because of TAFE on the Central Coast which has high youth unemployment.

#### **What are your experiences of funding cuts to TAFE?**

My older son had to travel to Meadowbank to attend his courses as they were not available on the Central Coast.

#### **Why do you think fewer people are enrolling in TAFE?**

Because it is less accessible in the Regional areas.

#### **Additional comments**