

Michelle Edwards
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7th June 2004

Mr Ian Cohan MLC
Chair
Inquiry into Murrumbidgee College of Agriculture
Parliament House
Sydney. NSW. 2000

Dear Mr Cohan,

Inquiry into Murrumbidgee College of Agriculture

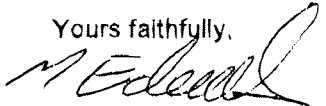
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

Re: Item 1(d) - of the terms of reference of this inquiry make reference to the transfer of Tocal to the Department of Education & Training.

I wish to express my concern in relation to the possibility of Tocal Agricultural College being transferred to the Department of Education & Training. I feel that this will inhibit, if not reduce, the way in which the College currently runs the on-campus & external studies courses.

I am currently studying externally through Tocal & have found the College to be easily accessible, either in person, telephone or email. I have found the different staff members, with whom I have dealt with over the years, to be extremely helpful & forthcoming with assistance when asked. I have completed a few courses through other institutions & have not found the staff as welcoming when it comes to inquiries & assistance. I feel this is especially significant for older people in the agricultural sector of the community who wish to update & increase their knowledge in their required fields. Many farmers & farm workers wish to re-enter the higher education sector but often feel intimidated by Universities etc. due to their sheer size, academic requirements & communication skills.

I feel Tocal is supplying the perfect bridge for people in agriculture who are willing to learn & continue to learn for the betterment of themselves & our community.

Yours faithfully,

Michelle Edwards