

**Submission
No 17**

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

Name: Mr Mark Smith

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I believe that the TAFE system should be supported and built up to be the main provider of technical training in NSW.

Some time ago I finished 10 years of TAFE courses. This was more than I needed to do, but my desire was to learn the right way to carry out a range of trade skills. I was extremely pleased with the high quality of all these courses and believe that the experience of the teachers and their desire to teach correct skills was invaluable. My TAFE courses were completed before competition between providers resulted in cost cutting trade-offs. I have gained many skills which I have used directly in my job, and in the support of many in the community.

The retention of TAFE is essential to Australia having a skilled population. The wisdom of our forebears several generations ago in setting up a strong TAFE system gave Australia a good skills base.

From what I read, "Smart and Skilled" is one of those Orwellian titles that indicates the exact opposite of its name, and has resulted in reduction of students being able to access TAFE and in particular from a range of socio-economic backgrounds. We will suffer as a society if it is allowed to deteriorate or disappear.

Please support our TAFE system.