

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

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I wish to make a brief submission.

I have spent the greater part of my work life teaching (not training) in TAFE. The E stands for education which includes but is much broader than training.

The TAFE that I and most of NSW love is an inclusive organisation that offers an array of courses in ways that ordinary Australians can easily access with confidence and can negotiate with the aid of tertiary educated teachers who understand the varying needs of our multicultural society.

All this is under threat by a management regime which is fixated not on value but cost. That cannot see the future needs of this state because they are blinded by short term goals and targets.

The so called Smart and Skilled program is destroying the goose that lays the golden egg. It is not smart to dismantle willy nilly the cumulative product of more than a century and one does not become skilled when courses are offered over shorter times by teachers who only have training in assessment rather than a well rounded tertiary education qualification.

The attempt to create a Vocational Market is only leading to a dumbing down of the system - the proverbial race to the bottom. All this to help create an environment so that profit seeking organisations can move in and turn TAFE into a business.

Education is not a business! Profit is a poor substitute for educational excellence and will lead this state nowhere.

Interestingly, the term Vocational Education, so favoured by the new 'training set', actually implies that education is a vocation which in many ways is the antithesis of profit making.

So, dump the reductionist schemes and put the education back into TAFE and invest in the future of NSW.