

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

I am a current permanent TAFE Teacher of twenty years standing. Under Smart and Skilled reforms my teaching area has received funding cuts to courses of over 40%. 1 year courses are now barely 3 terms, most subjects are completed in half the time previously allocated. Employers are now saying that a TAFE qualification is not sufficient for employment in my area (Community Services), as critical content and time for developmental learning has been lost. To maintain a teaching program, we now teach nearly double the number of classes due to the reduced funding, this reduces quality as there is far less time to prepare and review; class sizes have been increased to about 25 students per class from an average of fifteen, again watering down the experience for students. Ironically, student fees have increased between five to ten fold, and many many students are saying they do not feel ready for employment with the shortened courses, virtually forcing them to do further training (doubling at least their costs), in order to have some readiness for the workforce. In combination with the above is a new computer system which is primarily dysfunctional and absorbing inordinate amounts of teacher time, which previously could be devoted to supporting students with additional needs. I have also worked in the Equity services area of TAFE, and the level of day to day support for these students has been dramatically reduced also. Collectively, the impact of these changes has led to a dramatic downturn in quality, standards, and equity. On a personal note, the very high levels of stress accompanying these changes has led to a recent diagnosis of high blood pressure and, despite no previous family history, persistent tachycardia which is unexplained yet requiring beta blockers to maintain a normal pulse rate. What price TAFE? I would be happy to meet and provide evidence of all data at your convenience.