

**Submission  
No 125**

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

**Name:** Mr Tim Andrews

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***Submission to NSW Parliament Upper House Inquiry into NSW TAFE and VET***

***13/08/15***

I have been proud to be employed by Hunter TAFE as a TAFE Counsellor since 1992. In addition, I am a Registered Psychologist.

Working at several Hunter TAFE Campuses over these years I have provided professional counselling support and assistance to many thousands of TAFE students.

Put simply, I help prospective TAFE students to make informed choices concerning their TAFE course pathways, helping them determine the TAFE course that best suits their specific individual needs.

I also support and assist enrolled TAFE students to manage their learning, their TAFE experience, throughout their course.

So, as a TAFE Counsellor, I help students to actually get into or enter TAFE, and in addition I help them do their best, or achieve their potential learning outcomes, whilst they are in TAFE.

I have loved my job all these years. I have cherished the very particular experience of being witness to thousands of students managing their own individual challenges to the point of successful course completion and then employment.

Until now.

Smart and Skilled has destroyed my career.

Hunter TAFE is in the process of a change management initiative and my job has been deleted.

I expect to continue work until the end of 2015 and then be unemployed.

For the very first time in my life.

I completed my HSC in 1983, then went directly to University, and on graduation found employment with a small regional non-government organisation, and then found employment with TAFE. I expected to continue with TAFE until retirement. Not to be forced out with such ignominy.

More seriously, though, for the last 6 months, after the commencement of Smart and Skilled, I have for the very first time in my life heard students say:

"I can't afford to come to TAFE"

"TAFE fees are too expensive"

"I can't do that course if I don't get support"

"TAFE has gone downhill"

This has saddened me immeasurably.

Smart and Skilled must be recognised as the ideologically based mistake that it is.

It must be cancelled immediately.

TAFE needs to be restored to its previous and most proper status as the only publically funded VET provider.