

Submission
No 59

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 13/07/2015

Partially Confidential

TAFE submission

I have been employed as a part time teacher at TAFE for over 15 years. I have really enjoyed my teaching career and taught a variety of courses in my field of expertise. I have also run a small business with my husband since 1994 and my boss has always indicated this industry experience is invaluable as a TAFE teacher.

'Smart and skilled' has destroyed TAFE. This has not only affected potential students but staff employed at TAFE. Having spoken to students in my community, I know that students are giving up their course or simply not enrolling because the course fees are too excessive. Consequently our student numbers have dropped dramatically and our buildings at TAFE are empty (and it's like being in a morgue). What a waste of fantastic infrastructure!!

'Smart & Skilled' has introduced disreputable training organisations. I know there are some training organisations that are simply created to make as much profit as possible (& not provide quality education). From a personal perspective, my daughter, who is a university student, was lured into enrolling into a Diploma of Business (& signing up for VET fees) with the promise she would get a job on completion of the course. Apparently the person who enrolled her gets financial reward every time they enrol someone. This is hardly ethical is it?!

I have also noticed courses advertised that offer Certificate III in Business over half the time that TAFE does. The quality of these courses has to be queried.

The new EBS system has been a disaster. It simply hasn't worked and I know some students gave up trying to enrol this year as it was simply too hard. As a teacher, I have been advised to not enter any data until recently, as the system wasn't working. We could not give graduating students results - it was embarrassing!

The sad decline of TAFE has had a detrimental effect on the wide community. School leavers and job seekers do not have the opportunity to receive quality, reasonably priced education that used to be available. There are many teachers who have no work - this has a financial impact but also, more importantly, I think it has an influence on mental health. I know my colleagues and I am struggling to deal with the prospect of not continuing in a career that we had a lot to offer and enjoyed. It's very sad.

I would like to also mention that I wrote the Minister for Education earlier this year expressing my dismay. His response to this letter was to send a copy of the letter to the Institute director, so I could be reprimanded. I was very disappointed at this response.