

**Submission  
No 179**

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

**Name:** Mr John Ward

**Date received:** 14/08/2015

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My name is John Desmond Ward and as a Part-Time Casual Teacher (TAFE NSW) I am currently on Long Service Leave (Extended Leave). I commenced my teaching career, as a 2 year trained graduate of Armidale Teachers' College, teaching Agriculture and Biology at Bega High School in 1958.

I retired in 1999 at age 60 from the position of Principal of Barrenjoey High School.

I commenced my current role as a Part-Time Casual Teacher of TAFE at the Northern Beaches College of TAFE in February 2000. In the Pre-Vocational Section I have taught students enrolled in the Certificate of General and Vocational Education (CGVE) as well as students undertaking the Higher School Certificate (HSC). Subjects that I have taught during the past 16 years have been CGVE (History, Geography, Science, Mathematics and Horticulture) and HSC (Modern History, Geography and Business Studies).

I have found my experience as teacher at TAFE to be most satisfying. It has been a great feeling to have so many students go to the trouble of thanking me for the lesson. It has been equally satisfying to know that I have been able to help many students succeed where previously they had failed to achieve success in their studies. TAFE NSW deserves to be better financially supported so that it can continue to provide a second chance education for those unable to succeed initially. It is a great pity that the funding to help students with a disability has been greatly reduced.

Perhaps one the highlights of my career as a teacher in TAFE was to receive the following written thank you message from a student studying Modern History for the HSC.

"Dear John,

Thank you for a lovely year of History and sharing your deep knowledge and wisdom with us. It has been really moving to have a teacher who loves his subject as you do.

Thank you,

Julia"

In summary TAFE is a great organisation that should never be privatised and should be adequately resourced so that it can continue to provide worthwhile general and vocational educational opportunities for our students both young and old.

John D. Ward 14th August, 2015