

**Submission  
No 90**

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

**Name:** Mr Brett Hunter

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My high school years at Ingleburn High School were not good, I had learning disabilities. I was in the lowest of classes, which affected my grades. I left school with some of my school reports searching for employment. I had applied for over 40 jobs including apprenticeships, in those days parents were encouraging their children to get an apprenticeship which today I think is a good thing.

Then one day the door opened a Garden island Dockyard interview went well, the interviewers asked me "do you know what a boilermaker is" I shrugged my shoulders no sorry I don't, but I give it go.

A letter arrived in the post asking me to start work on 11/01/1977 I was so excited. That's when my connection with TAFE started I was an apprentice boilermaker/welder. My TAFE teachers were the best trained and most inspirational people, they guided and nurtured me, I gain skills and a love for the trade. I went on to win a number of workplace and TAFE awards on was on my way and not looking back WHAT AN EXPERIENCE.

The TAFE Trade teachers that guided really changed my life. I was promoted at work, I became a technical Instructor at HMAS Nirimba for 3years completed a Diploma of Teaching. In 1986 I then trade tested for TAFE NSW gained a country position at Leeton/Griffith which I seen the best resourced/teacher trained TAFE system in Australia.

I would like to think that I have the same influence on my trade students as the well trained TAFE teachers had on me.

Governments need to stop their destructive non investment into the TAFE. Our future youth will be effected with the downward spiral of NSW TAFE training. Were do they go? who will guide them? what tradesmen be like in the future. I can't see any positives with the cuts in TAFE.

Please, Please don't destroy TAFE .