

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

To Upper House committee reviewing TAFE

I have had the pleasure to teach in TAFE for over 25 years and still going strong.

During the last 10 years plus I have seen a devolution of TAFE and a push to commercialisation. There has been continuing arguments to reduce costs, save money, do it cheaper find 'short cuts' to teaching as the private providers do.

Well the private providers do not have a great record overall.

In Tourism and Hospitality there has been a record number of private providers who offer shortened courses and leave students with little or no skills or work readiness.

The same is happening in the floristry, hairdressing and beauty industries. I suggest you have a look at the 7:30 report on a hairdressing student who graduated from a private provider at Wentworth Park, was talked into a Diploma, 'graduated' and applied for a job at a salon. The owner gave her a skills test to give a gentleman a haircut and replied she had never cut a man's hair before. The salon owner said the transcript of her diploma said she 'could'. The salon owner agreed to take her on as an apprentice under the condition that she return to TAFE and learn the skills she did not gain in her private provider Diploma.

I can hear you 'comment' that not all private providers are like that - maybe not.

Recently at Sydney lost their approval to enrol International students and the department I work in - Fashion Design, is not endeavouring to find places and gap skill train those students from who wish to continue studying in Australia. This is not the first time that TAFE has had to step into the void created by private providers who take the money and run.

Over the years I have witnessed the generosity of time, supplies and equipment provided by caring TAFE teachers, struggling students who can't afford items - a caring teacher steps in and provides it. A student needs to prepare for a competition and needs extra tuition and guidance, a TAFE teacher steps in.

My brother who is a floor and wall tiler for over 35 years trained at TAFE. One of his teachers, knowing of his personal circumstances of coming from a single parent family and endeavouring to get skilled during the economic downturn of the mid 70's, presented him with a set of equipment and a wheelbarrow which the teacher purchased himself - wow!!! I was blown away when my brother shared this with me.

In closing as TAFE has a charter for the disabled and disadvantaged those persons are entitled and are able to pursue an education and training in TAFE. Will the private providers offer the same and to the depth and degree that TAFE currently does.

I thank you for this opportunity to voice my opinions and experiences of being educated and teaching in TAFE NSW.

Lastly I wish to say that education is a cornerstone of our country and Australian culture and is not a business. I feel we should look to countries such as Malaysia which is an emerging first world country which recognises and has a heavy focus on elevating the educational level of their citizens.