

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

Name: Mrs Renata Redman

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Partially Confidential

I would like to share the story of my son, _____, with you.

In 2010 my son, who has mild cerebral palsy, finished his schooling and decided he would like to follow a career path in hospitality, as a chef. I was concerned as I did not know if he would be able to undertake and complete the study that was involved. I was also worried as to whether he would be able to cope with the demands and stress which accompany this occupation. _____, however, was determined to give it 'a go'.

At the beginning of 2011 _____ enrolled at the _____ TAFE in their Hospitality Certificate. His 3 years at this institution was a wonderful experience. The TAFE teachers and staff supported and assisted him with his study and practical skills. Not only did he gain skills and experience, but he also gained confidence, believing that he could be a competent and successful chef.

Whilst at TAFE, _____ obtained a chef apprenticeship at _____ RSL. He completed his apprenticeship and continues to work there as a fully qualified chef. He also successfully completed his studies at TAFE.

I believe _____ positive and invaluable experience at TAFE has been a major contributing factor to his success. For a person with a disability to successfully complete his studies and obtain, and retain, a job is a reflection both on him and the TAFE system. Without the support he received at TAFE he may just have been another person on the disability pension, rather than the proud, successful and industrious young man he is today.

Please no cuts to the TAFE system as it is particularly invaluable to those who have a disability and those outside of the tertiary sector. It is doing amazing things.