

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

Name: Ms Lyn Maciver

Date received: 29/06/2015

Dear Chairperson and Committee,

My submission will be brief.

I write as an educator and one who has taught in the NSW TAFE system and a parent of a son who completed his apprenticeship at Hornsby TAFE and has been a successful builder for more than 20 years and as a student who has completed Permaculture at Ryde Horticultural College of TAFE and numerous other short courses over more than 30 years.

Countries with vision educate their citizens and encourage lifelong learning.

Countries which are flexible economically and can adjust rapidly to the challenges of rapidly changing circumstances both domestically and globally educate their citizens.

Countries which aspire to provide more than basic necessities for all citizens provide them with the best public education systems they can.

Countries which want to see their citizens enjoy happy, fulfilling and constructive lives educate their citizens.

Countries which are shamed by expanding gaols and increasing numbers of illiterate and innumerate prisoners make sure those prisoners have access to educational opportunities in prison so that when they are released they will have better opportunities to find work in a legitimate field.

Countries which want to truly belong to the 21 century need to move psychologically, socially, economically beyond the eighteenth when the poor and disadvantaged had no chance of moving beyond poverty and despair.

TAFE has long provided opportunities for those whose circumstances are limited but whose potential is great.

Too many economically sound and valuable Australian institutions from Telstra, CBA, State Lotteries, GIO, NRMA, public transport and educational institutions have been sacrificed at costs we will never recover on the altar of the great God of Greed and Materialism, called Privatisation. Our country had extraordinarily good organisations and public institutions returning huge profits to State and Commonwealth Treasuries but greedy individuals and groups have systematically dismantled most of these and are now complaining that the coffers are bare.

Lack of foresight, personal greed and political corruption and bad judgement have been retrogressively impoverishing our country and its people.

TAFE provides an important stepping stone for many adolescent and adult learners alike and for those whose financial circumstances demand higher skills and qualifications as a pathway to employment and a better life. These and future generations deserve to have the best world practice educational opportunities to break the cycle of poverty and despair.

Do not privatise TAFE. It will achieve no good outcomes for our country.

Sincerely,

Lyn Maciver