

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

## **Submission to Inquiry into vocational education and training in New South Wales**

Teacher Electrical Engineering, TAFE NSW.

### **Response to:**

*(a) the factors influencing student choice about entering the vocational education and training system including: (i) motivation to study (ii) choice of course, course location and method of study (iii) barriers to participation, including students in the non-government education and home schooling sectors.*

One of the main influencing factors on student choice is the cost of training especially for those students who want to enter university via a TAFE pathway. This, before the introduction of Smart and Skills funding reforms was a preferred choice for many students especially directly from high school. They would enrol in, for example, an Advanced Diploma of Engineering Technology – Electrical (National Code UEE62111) and enter university studies and be granted credit for their TAFE studies. This is only one example course, there are many others.

The introduction of Smart and Skilled funding model has now severely impacted on this pathway as students no longer choose this option. There is no government funding for this and other similar courses offering university entry pathways. Most students are not prepared to take on the debt of VET Fee Help funding and so make other training choices at a loss to themselves and the community.

For TAFE, this has meant that a once-productive pathway is now not viable and teaching staff numbers have had to be reduced. Enrolments are now at less than 10% of what they were before Smart and Skilled introduction.

The Smart and Skilled philosophy is obviously geared to trade qualifications. Not everyone wants to be a tradesperson. Why are pathways to university being minimised?

Even courses that provide up-skilling of tradespeople to Certificate 4 courses are impacted with vastly reduced enrolments.

The skills list needs to be rethought with room for career pathways to be funded.

End of submission