

Dear Committee Secretariat

Please see attached an article recently published in the Australian TAFE Teacher. I am providing this article to summarise my concerns about the sustainability of TAFE across Australia.

I raise my concerns both as a recent TAFE Executive and as the Chair of the RDA-Limestone Coast, and my concerns are based on my extensive experience in TAFE, and from a long term in-depth understanding of regional communities. However these are my personal concerns and not reflective of any organisation, please note that this article was co-authored by the current CE of TAFE SA – Jeff Gunningham, and that these views are also his personal perspective.

TAFE in Australia is recognised as one of the top vocational systems in the world. A system that delivers quality outcomes as part of a national framework, and that supports the workforce development of our key business sectors. It is a system that ensures regional communities have access to tertiary education in a way that Universities have not, and will not unless the funding model is changed. The significant financial pressure on the TAFE systems across Australia means that service in regional locations is likely to decline, and that the comprehensive delivery of quality programs across each State will reduce to a limited suite of programs.

I urge the inquiry to consider the points raised in the article, and I am willing to make a personal presentation if invited to do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to raise these matters.

Kind Regards, Ruth Schubert

--

Dr Ruth Schubert (PhD)

M. 0438 422 877

E. ruth.schubert@internode.on.net