



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, rex calvert, of howrah make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a tafe teacher, in the postcode of 7018.

yes - my son went to tafe to study cert 3 in cookery

tafe is the best place for those who wish to obtain or study VET to attend. those who teach there have nationally accredited VET quals.

my son studied cookery at college , he always said the teachers were not up to industry standard.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

yes. budget cuts have meant that those seeking to gain or upgrade their qualifications to enhance their employment prospects now pay full cost recovery.

yes. job losses due to budget shortfalls has resulted in less staff doing more at the expense of teachers being able to teach. the students and Australia are the losers.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because our future prosperity, that relies on a qualified workforce, will be affected if there is not a well resourced public provider to set the standard for VET delivery in Australia.

Submitted by

rex calvert of howrah

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Caitlin Goldfinch, of Moana make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a , in the postcode of 5169.

I'm currently undertaking a Bachelor of Visual Arts and Design course through Adelaide College of the Arts Tafe and it is the best decision I've ever made.

I'm happier when I'm here. I took this course because when trying to get into an art course through university, I got rejected.

The environment is creative and warm and I feel at home here.

You don't get a chance to learn these kind of skills in a university environment. Some people also learn better through hands - on activities, I know I do. You can't always learn something through writing essays.

Like I said before, if it wasn't for tafe, I wouldn't be studying what I love and would

probably be really unhappy right now.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes! Second and third year classes are being joined, broken equipment can't get replaced, we need to go buy equipment that would normally be supplied by the college

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because...

Submitted by

Caitlin Goldfinch of Moana

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, , of Brookvale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

The federal and state governments are both responsible for the degradation of skill training in Australia. Private RTO's are destroying the education industry by focusing on assessment and not focusing on training.

Government is trying to fast track apprenticeships when once again the acquisition of skill is just as if not more important than knowledge. Skills cannot be fast tracked!!!!

TAFE's role in training is now more important than ever.

Submitted by

of Brookvale

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Frances Hawton, of Castle Hill make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a FT teacher, in the postcode of 2154.

I went through university after leaving school.

My son has been to TAFE and has a career in IT.

TAFE develops practical skills of people, and ensures that they have the skills that businesses need. In accounting, TAFE graduates have the practical knowledge to undertake the tasks required in most offices. University graduates have very different skills, which are not as practical.

I have taught in TAFE for 20 years, as a part-time teacher, a full-time teacher and a head Teacher. I have seen many people who came into their first course with few practical skills, very little confidence and no self-belief.....I have seen those same

people leave 18 months later with confidence, skills and the knowledge that they can take on the world - it was not just about achieving a qualification, it was about building their skills so that they felt confident about going out and getting a job, and being able to perform in that job.

I work in Granville, with some of the most disadvantaged people in Australia - most are from NESB backgrounds, some are from cultures where women, in particular, are not valued very highly. The change TAFE can make in the lives of these people is amazing! they leave here to become valuable members of the Australian workforce, and go on to become role models for others from their communities.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes, we have students who come to us for later-stage courses (eg Accounting Diploma) who studied their Cert IV at private colleges....they have a qualification, but they have not learned any of the skills to go along with it. Their understanding of the material is virtually non-existent. this has occurred on numerous occasions, not just once or twice.

we are cutting back on the courses that we offer, and we are being asked constantly to find more cost saving - inevitably, this means that class sizes are bigger, or we cannot offer students as much support as we would like. it also means that we have ceased offering our courses at some campuses (eg. Accounting can no longer be done at Wetherill Park college) as many of our students are mothers returning to the workforce, they cannot attend a TAFE a long distance from home, also many are generally lower-socio economic, they cannot the transport to drive a long way to another campus.....these people will miss out.

as above

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because too many people will end up without an education if we don't do something. the move to private colleges may mean more qualifications, but it will not increase SKILLS. people need real training, where they learn new skills, to be able to be of value to their employers....having a qualification without the skills behind it will not help the country in the long-run. TAFE has the ability to change people's lives - to give them new hope, new confidence, new potential and a chance to change their lives, and those of their children. there is so much knowledge and ability in TAFE - we risk that all that will be lost if the government continues down this path

Submitted by

Frances Hawton of Castle Hill

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Joyce Pickup, of Minto make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

TAFE in NSW provides quality education and training for people from all different backgrounds depending on demographic areas. It allows for people from disadvantaged backgrounds and people who have not had the same 'life chances' to achieve education and skills that allows them to further their career options and become contributors to the community. For example a single mum can begin with a course in Career Employment and Education for Women continue onto Tertiary Preparation Certificate then to University to qualify as a in Nursing, Teaching, Law, etc and become not only able to support herself and her children but also contribute to the community. The example is not an isolated case I have seen it happen many times for many students, were being able to begin with a low level course and achieve success has enabled the individual to gain not only academically but also self confidence and go on to achieve skills and worthwhile professions. Policies and cuts that are being made to TAFE will not only abandon people from disadvantaged background but in the future will

create a skills shortage. By making TAFE into a system of contestable funding can only led to an eventual undermining of quality and standards that are so valued in the TAFE system and respected by the community.

Submitted by

Joyce Pickup of Minto

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Susan Reid, of Coniston make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a business consultant, in the postcode of 2500.

I left school at 16 and studied at TAFE until pregnancy at 17 forced me out of the workforce. The skills I learnt at TAFE assisted me to find employment after having the baby. Years later I attended TAFE again at differing intervals which assisted with me gaining my current position and the confidence to successfully complete a university degree. I am now on a six figure salary in a full time job thanks to my TAFE training.

TAFE trainers are very experienced as they work or have worked in the field of study. Trainers pass on valuable insights as well as meeting training package requirements. The teachers I have dealt with have close ties to the community and industry to help gain employment prospects for students. Most teachers go far beyond the basic requirements to assist their students.

I left school at 16 due to a father who said girls get married and have babies, they don't need an education. I was forced to leave school even though I wanted to continue and was an A student. TAFE offered a scholarship for secretarial studies, which I achieved, and this paid for my training. I did fall pregnant but completed the course and work experience. This helped me to gain employment after the birth. The positive experience I enjoyed at TAFE encouraged me to attend several times over the ensuing years. Studies at TAFE have helped me to gain several positions to better my prospects and support myself when I became divorced. I am still working full time and using TAFE to gain more skills to keep me up to date and ready for change in the workplace.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I attended a community college to undertake a qualification as the timing and location suited me. The trainer told me after the first lesson and discussion that he learnt so much from the group as we had more experience than him! Another private training organisation was supposed to be assessing me for Project Management Diploma and I hardly gained any additional skills as I had to teach myself from the text and then provide evidence. At least TAFE courses cover the material well, provide real-life scenarios and hands on skills for practice that give you confidence. Practice with appropriate feedback is very important when learning new skills.

Job losses have occurred in some areas and cuts to courses that are now gone or full fee paying. This has narrowed opportunities for my community and the future of our youth who already have a high unemployment rate in the Illawarra.

TAFE has been impacted by job losses, course cuts, course fee increases and diminished opportunities, especially for local youth training.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE is an integral part of my community that provides training and employment opportunities across all industry areas. Without TAFE private trainers will charge more while providing minimal teaching to the detriment of skills standards. At least with TAFE in the picture there is a good standard that most private trainers try to match.

Submitted by

Susan Reid of Coniston

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Nirmal Chowdhury, of Woodcroft make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a community worker, in the postcode of 2767.

I am immigrant and currently a citizen of Australia. I did my uni degree from overseas which didn't bring me any job here. I then went to TAFE NSW to do a certificate IV course in IT that then helped me getting a job. I then did a diploam in part time evening mode which has brought me a promotion in job and I have been working in IT industry ever since. So, I would say, these TAFE courses actually changed my life.

TAFE NSW has been built over many years. It has become a very strong institution for VET training of which there is no parallel instotute. It's low fee also has helped many Australians change their career when there was a problem with their current jobs. To my knowledge TAFE has always been keen in updating its course delivery to the current VET needs. Its teachers are great. I would like to see it continued for years to

come for our next generation.

As mentioned in question 1, it helped me finding a job that changed my life. As my previous uni degree didn't bring any opportunity for me here in Australia, but definitely the TAFE diploma did.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Not applicable to myself. But to my knowledge, it definitely helps a lot of people in regional area to whom there is no other option but to go to TAFE.

I have seen quite a few private training organisations started their business with huge hi-fi but finally got liquidated. One I can remember in NSW was ComputerPower. There have been a few others that I heard of and read about in newspapers in Sydney, but I can't remember their names. These mushroom training organisations are there to make money, not to provide quality training to our fellow citizens that TAFE does.

Every year we hear from my relatives and colleagues who attend TAFE that their class time (number of hours per week) has been cut down, duration of courses has been cut down (eg, diplomas are now run over one semester full time in place of one year full time). These are due to funding cut to teaching sections. It ultimately will affect the respective industry who will not get the properly trained and skilled people.

So, far the state govt's cut has affected the quality of course delivery. However, I know a few TAFE teachers who told me that they are working hard to give students the best possible technical training possible within the reduced budget. What we are now hearing that the NSW state govt (like Victoria and SA) is going to make TAFE compete

with private VET providers (who are no way able to compete with TAFE due to their resource limitations and hunger of making money), and setting course fees in TAFE become like private providers (thousands of dollars in place of few hundred dollars), plus expecting all TAFE teaching sections to match what their private competitors are doing. This will simply force the TAFE teaching sections compromise the quality of their course delivery and as a result majority of TAFE graduates (like graduates from most of the private providers) will be less skilled in the industry and Australian Industries will greatly suffer from that.

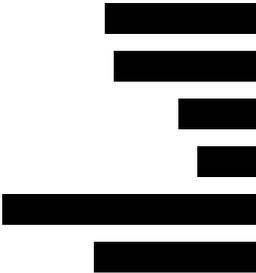
I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because

The current reduction of TAFE funding cut along with the future privatising plan in TAFE will seriously affect the future of our local industries. Where we are supposed to compete with the other less expensive overseas labour markets, instead we are lowering the quality of our future graduates. Also, once such degradation is done and industries are affected it will be irreversible, and that will push the industries to either outsource our jobs to overseas countries or bring temp visa holders in to run their businesses. So, please make state govts stop reducing funding and stop it changing the future of TAFE in becoming like a private vet provider. Please save Australian future in the VET sector.

Submitted by

Nirmal Chowdhury of Woodcroft

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Jack Randell, of Dubbo make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a artist, in the postcode of 2830.

I have been a tradesman most of my working life and have trained 8 people in to the industry I worked in using TAFE as a formal base for their qualifications. I have changed careers in recent years and now engage in training via the TAFE system to compliment that transition.

TAFE training is vocationally based, and therefore the tutors and the courses have a practicality not met in other training I have undertaken.

I have coordinated a scholarship for regional arts students without the means to attend metropolitan art schools. I have witnessed students acquire TAFE qualifications in a regional setting, and then take up university studies in major centres. TAFE in regional

centres is very important as a transition from high school to university for disadvantaged students.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means access to further education without leaving my family.

The course that I am now staying at TAFE is 12 weeks (12 hour contact + 12 hours asynchronous). It is diploma level study in online teaching. A local private college is offering the same course as a 4 week (12 hour contact). I don't know how they would hope to cover the scope of the subject in this time.

Access to some of the part-time tutors has been reduced.

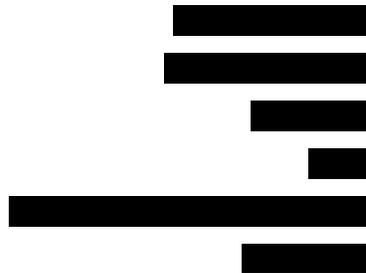
It has demoralised the full-time staff and disenfranchised the part-timers.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it plays a key role in regional communities as it is often the only learning hub outside of school offering transferable nationally recognised qualifications.

Submitted by

Jack Randell of Dubbo

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Kerry Wellington, of CARRUM make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Senior Educator, in the postcode of 3199.

I am appalled by what the funding cuts have done for the ongoing well being of our students.

We need to invest in education and our future generations, give them the opportunity to be the best they can.

I came through doing a short course, then through to Adv Diploma qualification then teaching qualifications and many of my professional friends have upgraded and qualified in the areas they are working

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

We have calls saying they cannot even remember the name and qualification that they had to answer questions for to get their "piece of paper" - reduces value, quality and integrity of what we are trying to do.

We were all sacked 21 December last year.

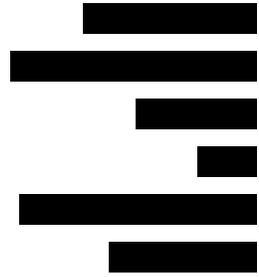
Courses reduced, costs increased, staffing reduced, educational value lost.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need to Invest in our future!

Submitted by

Kerry Wellington of CARRUM

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Stewart Terras, of JEWELLS make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a mechanic, in the postcode of 2280.

I have 3 children my daughter went to tafe to learn commercial cooking, my first son went to tafe to learn green keeping and my second son is in his first year at tafe doing a certificate 3 in heavy vehicle mechanics. I have also done several tafe courses which has placed me in good stead for the current position.

If it was not for tafe non of us would be in the position we are in today!!!!!!

Tafe gives people from all works of life real and relavent training which is world class. While I have found private providers do not do quality training they just tick and flick the student through so they can get the monies from government!!!!!! I have a close friend who works has worked for private providers and she continually witnesses unethical training from private providers both here in Newcastle and also in Sydney!!!!

KEEP TAFE IN GOVERNMENT HANDS AND PROVIDE MORE FUNDS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I grew up in a small country town, my father was from the stolen generation.... I could not get a break at my home town so I moved to Newcastle, got a job and upskilled myself at Glendale TAFE. I have attained the highest pass in the state with one of my studies and also the highest pass in the Hunter valley in another course... If it was not for TAFE and its government funding I don't know where I would be today!!

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means... I came from a small country town and I know how hard it is to become skilled. I would have had to drive almost 2 hours to attend courses if I was still living at my home town..

YES.... There are many poor quality private training companies one local training company was given 9 million dollars of federal funding and from all reports they do not do quality training, I know of some people stating that theory exams were given to students, the teacher told the students the answers were on his desk and he then went out of the room and returned much later when the students had completed the exam... SURPRISE THEY ALL PASSED... A close friend of mine is a retail trainer she has [she was employed by tafe wide bay in QLD] told me of four training companies she has worked for and the students all have to pass or the training company does not get paid, one course was a cert 2 in retail delivered in four and a half days... surprise they all passed or the company would not pay her... She has since dropped out of training companies because she believes they are all crooks and thieves!!!

My youngest son's training should be 7 week blocks of 38 hours, they have been cut to 6 weeks and 34 hours. I know many local tafe's are cutting courses and shedding staff... TAFE should be taught by professional TEACHERS with university qualification's and not trainers with only a Cert 4 qualification!

My youngest son's training should be be 7 week blocks of 38 hours, they have been cut to 6 weeks and 34 hours. I know many local tafe's are cutting courses and shedding staff... TAFE should be taught by professional TEACHERS with university qualification's and not trainers with only a Cert 4 qualification!

Tafe should be funded by governments so all people from any socioeconomic area can get quality meaningful training

Submitted by

Stewart Terras of JEWELLS

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, garry hartley, of Matraville make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a TAFE teacher, in the postcode of 2007.

After 15 year in the travel and tourism industry both overseas and in Australia I took a teaching position at TAFE as my passion was to be teach at a vocational level.

TAFE contains a large group of community minded teachers committed to both people seeking training and the industry from which they have come. Regular contact with industry and our students who obtain employment means we are very in touch with what is required for a smart and strong Australian workforce. No other section of the training industry has the level of commitment shown by TAFE teachers. I have a Masters Degree with first class honours and have chosen to remain at the head teacher level so I can continue to have maximum impact in the classroom and at the teacher level.

TAFE has very open access as is shown by the enormous diversity of students. This includes university educated who have found it difficult to gain employment due to their lack of practical industry skills. I can also sight students who never thought they could gain entry to University until they came to TAFE and completed a course.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Not applicable

We regularly have students enrolling with us who have a certificate III course from a private provider and do not demonstrate the competencies shown on their transcript. Some even ask to repeat their qualification because they "have not learned anything" (their words) in their private course.

Budget cuts are having a noticeable effect. We are able to enroll less students and teachers including myself are working much harder and more hours than 2 years ago. It is more and more difficult to get the teachers to do the extra things as we are extremely busy with compliance issues. Additional time is required for copying and storage of more and more documentation. Emails have nearly doubled. The push for commercial business is very unproductive yet consuming more and more time and resources. This inefficient use of our core assets.

The moral is as low as I can remember it in my 17 years at TAFE. The constant change and inability of the department to work with the Teachers Federation reflects poorly on both. There is no trust left and it is starting to affect delivery and outcomes. TAFE teachers are there because they believe in public and second chance education and training. We do not deserve to be treated as we are. Above the head teacher level there seems no longer to be any concern for our core business - the students

training for industry.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the damage that is presently being inflicted could take a generation to reverse. For some reason the teachers opinions appear to rate at the bottom of pile. I trust my brief and to the point input will be considered. Why not come into one of my classes and ask the students..â€¦

Submitted by

garry hartley of Matraville

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Paul Day, of Beechworth rd make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a , in the postcode of 2073.

sasdas

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦!

Submitted by
Paul Day of Beechworth rd
Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Alan Quick, of Heatley make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a Teacher, in the postcode of 4814.

I gained the confidence to eventually complete a Bachelor Degree by first attending TAFE and completing a Diploma in IT. I now teach what TAFE taught me and I am passing on that knowledge to the younger generation. A great many of my past students are now working in an industry they love and contributing to the Australian economy.

In my particular field, IT, it is imperative for students to have hands on experience as well as doing study online. It is as important as it is for anybody learning to drive. No one could expect a person to drive a vehicle after having only online experience.

As stated in 1. above TAFE gave me the confidence and experience to do what I believe I was destined to do.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...not only gaining a Diploma in a particular field but moving on to University with study skills that are needed to complete a Uni course.

Private RTO's are renowned for a tick and flick attitude when delivering a less than quality course.

There have been TV reports of this occurring where evidence of competency is just a staged photograph. TAFE's professional staff would never consider this.

Yes, staff are struggling immensely. When a staff member leaves or is forced into retirement, they are never replaced but have their jobs shared amongst others who then take on a bigger slice of the working pie. Considering the number of years this has been happening, it is no wonder staff are suffering.

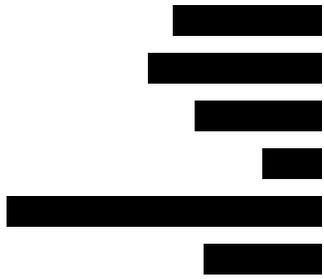
Without a doubt. Years have gone by with both sides of Government slicing more and more. Classes have often increased to unmanageable levels with Teaching staff having to teach and tutor using two separate rooms, and sometimes three rooms, darting from one to the other.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is an important, no, a very important part of society's need for furthering skills for the workplace, or, a very important start in peoples beginnings for further higher level education. TAFE gives the hands on skills and University provides the more theoretical aspect of studying for a career.

Submitted by

Alan Quick of Heatley

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Chris Harney, of Macgregor make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 45 years old and work as a Librarian, in the postcode of 2615.

I completed a Librarian Tech Dip. in 1999 and went on to University completing a BA Communications in 2006. 2 of my sons did Computer Sciences at TAFT. Both have very good jobs in IT, Networks and Records Management. Without TAFT all of this would not be possible.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦!

Submitted by

chris Harney of Macgregor

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Susan Main, of Bassendean make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a University Lecturer, in the postcode of 6054.

The school system failed my son but he is thriving at TAFE. He is motivated, engaged and consequently achieving good results. Something his high school teachers would find hard to believe.

TAFE has a vital role to play in the Australian Educational landscape. It is a place where children, like my son, can achieve success in courses that are practical and aligned with industry standards. He can see the value in the study he is doing because his teachers have close links with the industry in which he wants to work.

The ability to specialise in areas of interest is important to many children and, while a general education is important, sometimes this option is the only thing that keeps them

off the streets.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Education is the means to improving Australia's economic position and I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded.

Submitted by

Susan Main of Bassendean

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Anthony Kelly, of Putney make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I'm 45 years old and work as a Technical Specialist in the area Electronic products.

I started out leaving school mid Year 11 to take up an apprenticeship in the field of Electronic Trades. Once I finished the core course at TAFE, it allowed me to continue on doing other courses and eventually to a Certificate level. To which, has given the opportunity to secure a job in the field of electronic products. All up, I probably spent 7 years doing TAFE courses.

Without TAFE, there would be no other way I could have gotten to where I am today.

There is a saying I strongly believe in, if it isn't broke, don't fix it. Leave TAFE alone, keep it going strong. It is the source of all tradespeople to learn their profession the right way. Not from some backyard cowboy.

TAFE works, lets keep it working.

Regards

Anthony Kelly

Submitted by

Anthony Kelly of Putney

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Diane Brennan, of Oyster Bay make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retired school counsellor, in the postcode of 2225.

Both of my children have (or are still) studying diplomas at TAFE. They do not have the skills for university but are both well suited to the style of learning that happens at TAFE. It is direct and directly relates to their jobs. It is hard enough to get a job. Without TAFE both of my children would still be unemployed.

Good direct instruction that relates to the workplace.

Increases in fees are getting to the stage that my children will not be able to afford to study.

Guaranteed places for overseas students (so TAFEs can afford to run courses, mean less places for my children.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€my children and the children I have taught(at Macquarie Fields) cannot even consider university placements.

Submitted by

Diane Brennan of Oyster Bay

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Merri Blair, of Carlton make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a Community worker, in the postcode of 3053.

I was a registered division 2 nurse when I started a family in the 1980's. When my children started school I was living in a rural town in northern Victoria. I decided to go back to study in Welfare Work. I completed this part time over 4 years at Goulburn Ovens TAFE. This was instrumental in furthering my career in community work.

Our Welfare course had participants of both gender and predominantly older adults. Many went on to work in Child protection services and the not for profit sector.

Getting my diploma in community welfare was instrumental in helping me to develop a new career in community health.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE meant I was able to study, work and

raise my kids locally. Many of the students completed their studies and we remain in touch as friends and colleagues.

I now travel extensively to Gippsland and the cuts to their TAFE are impacting on the local community in a severe way. People with learning difficulties and mental health issues should be entitled to attend courses and have assistance. The cuts have meant the support services for students like these no longer exist or are very limited.

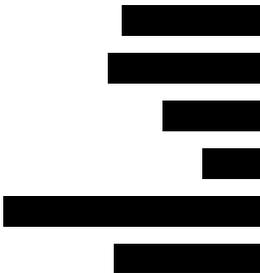
As above. In Morwell it has affected young people attending post secondary study, and employment has been impacted locally.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it really is a cost effective way to ensure people who most need and desire skill development are able to achieve it. The return on investment would speak volumes and local employment in regional areas is essential to sustain these communities.

Submitted by

Merri Blair of Carlton

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, peter shead, of mill park make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a driver, in the postcode of 3082.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need them

Submitted by
peter shead of mill park

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Diane Owen, of Currimundi make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a , in the postcode of 4551.

Left school early due to financial issues and than have completed many Tafe qualifications later.

Recognition of skills gained whilst working.

It has opened management opportunities

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...qualifications for work being completed each day.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦!

Submitted by

Diane Owen of Currimundi

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Vanessa Hanson, of Top Camp make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Ward Administrator, in the postcode of 4350.

TAFE is important to me as it allows me to study short courses online. I work full-time and it is important to be able to continue ongoing professional development through an online medium, I can study wherever, whenever I like.

TAFE develops and improves professional skills, while allowing students to network and improve their chances of finding a job.

I work in a long-term mental health ward. TAFE allows our patients to access basic education, with the extra support needed. These patients generally would not be able to cope with the demands of university.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes. Some courses are no longer provided, staff have been cut. In addition, TAFE teachers are under increasing pressure to make a profit, at the expense of the students.

Reduced course options available, fewer teachers.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is a vital part of the overall education system. It allows employees to access ongoing professional development, but it also allows those who did not attend (or were successful at) high school to access pre-university education, with the prospect of going on to attend university.

Submitted by

Vanessa Hanson of Top Camp

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Ben Lancini, of The Gap make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a network engineer, in the postcode of 4061.

My high schooling was oriented to fine art, humanities career path. I studied for both a BA and Arts Dip but was discouraged with the employment prospects upon graduation so chose to move to an electronics and communications engineering Ass Dip trade course at TAFE in South Brisbane.

TAFE offered a short bridging course allowing me to study the maths and science prerequisite subjects enabling me to gain admission the course. Without TAFE this it would have been much more difficult to enter the engineering field. I feel strongly that this option should be open to today's students.

If we want a dynamic and skill rich and productive workforce, we best give people the opportunity to find their way from one discipline to another.

Submitted by

Ben Lancini of The Gap

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Sarah Maddison, of Kensington make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

TAFE has played a vital role in my life. I dropped out of high school at 15 and had no further contact with the school system. I did not complete my HSC. After working as a waitress, a cleaner and in retail (while undertaking a part time acting course) I decided I needed a real qualification, and something meaningful to do with my life. I enrolled in an Advanced Certificate in Community Welfare at Ultimo TAFE - and my life changed for good!!

I completed my qualification in three years, and from the work placements during the course I secured full time employment in the community youth sector. I went on to work in the NSW Department of Juvenile Justice. The work was incredibly challenging and stimulating.

More than this, however, my TAFE education inspired in me a love of learning. My

teachers were passionate and engaged, drawing on extensive professional experience in the field. Thus, after having two children in my early twenties I decided to pursue a university education. I enrolled in a BA at UTS, where my TAFE qualification and work experience were so well regarded I was afforded a semester of advanced standing!

My love of learning continued at university. I graduated with Honours and the University Medal and went on to complete a PhD at the University of Sydney. I am now an Associate Professor at UNSW, where I have worked for over nine years, and have published several books.

NONE of this would have been possible had I not had an affordable opportunity to re-engage with education through the TAFE system. I'm sure there are many others like me who would never have found or pursued their passion and potential were it not for the outstanding education that TAFE offers. It is a vital component of our education system. It cannot be replicated by private providers. It would be a tragedy to see our technical and further education system erode further through budget cuts and political undermining.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my experience with this inquiry.

Yours sincerely,
Sarah Maddison

Submitted by
Sarah Maddison of Kensington
Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Deidre Granger, of Fish Creek make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a postal contractor, in the postcode of 3959.

I've worked in organisational development for over 30 years. In that time I have seen the casualisation of the workforce with a resultant reduction in on the job training. Many employer require a fully trained person to take up employment rather than seeing an employment relationship including on the job development. TAFE provided me with relevant skills and training that I required pre-employment and in order to move through the industry

TAFE is an accessible form of formal training that builds the skills and confidence that can lead to other education and to improved employment prospects. Many people from a broad cross section of the community can attend TAFE, often without having to leave home, and this is particularly relevant in regional areas. I have been to university

and to TAFE and found TAFE a much better, more welcoming and flexible education environment, which suited me, my lifestyle and my learning needs.

Having faced redundancy I was able to use TAFE to provide me with short-course skills development that helped me to improve my employment competitiveness. I also used TAFE to maintain the currency of my qualifications without needing to undertake more expensive and extensive tertiary education, which gave me a second chance as an older employee.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means community connection, balance between work-life-education and a more direct link with local employers.

No direct experience of this.

Budget cuts mean that the variety of courses are no available and the student/teacher ratios are higher. This is most significant an impact in regional areas with limited education and training options

TAFE cuts have created uncertainty and impacted on the viability of young people being able to get a variety of education and gaining close to their regional homes.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it has saved my self-esteem and provided me with concrete skills and training at times that have been challenging. With the increased casualisation of the workforce and so the greater expectation that employers will be fully trained before taking up employment the practical and accessible nature of TAFE will be essential for our future workforce capabilities.

Submitted by

Deidre Granger of Fish Creek

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Ken Bradfield, of Freshwater make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Carpenter, in the postcode of 2096.

Leaving school early yr9 I had Tafe to thank for returning to studies to complete my trade and cert Iv in building.

It's a choice to better your position in the workforce. It's the only way to earn trades and other qualifications

A second chance to educate myself after leaving school in yr 9 .

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes, bitad any other agency, Tafe has prided themselves on keeping a standard . Real

experience in the industry brought to the classroom. Keeping it cost effective, if Tafe goes the private sector will charge more and deliver less

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦Tafe has helped me. Heaps.

Submitted by

Ken Bradfield of Freshwater

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Kate Bell , of Adelaide make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Childcare worker, in the postcode of 5085.

I started out as a trainee in Childcare and gained both the practical and theoretical knowledge that was needed for my work. I was inspired by the fountain of knowledge and experience the teachers had and shared and loved it so much I have just started my advance diploma in childcare.

It gave me the opportunity to learn hands on, go out and see what it was like in the industry but also gave me the confidence and knowledge I needed to be the best I could be at my job.

I have a mild learning difficulty, so for me learning has always been difficult, but tafe brought out the best in me, they gave me the help I needed to learn and the confidence

to keep trying. I was so overwhelmed and I inspired by all the councillor and teachers help.

Yes especially in comparison to how I learnt, the practical skills are so important I. Childcare.

No

Unsure

I urge that tafe funding not be cut because people like me would not have an opportunity to do a job they love as much as I love childcare.

Submitted by

Kate Bell of Adelaide

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Lisa Brown, of narooma make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a tourist officer, in the postcode of 2546.

I did an apprenticeship which incorporated TAFE study when I left school, late 1970s. I retrained, again using TAFE in 2004 and in 2010

When TAFE offers hands-on real-life experiences it produces skilled, confident workers.

By offering courses in rural NSW I avoided having to relocate to continue further study.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means more opportunity for local people of all ages to upskill without relocating to big cities with their accompanying

higher cost of living.

not in my region

Courses locally lack the variety that they did 20 years ago. The local campus has never offered childcare. There are many part-time and casual teachers and consequently a lot of pressure put on the full-time teachers.

Teachers seem to be overwhelmed by admin and bureaucracy, rather than having enough hours paid to teach face-to-face and actually enjoy it.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we risk a long-term lack of skills and learning in rural and regional areas if courses are continually cut. This is only going to breed yet more under-employed under-valued potential workers.

Submitted by

Lisa Brown of narooma

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Pauline Martin, of Port Lincoln make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Retired Nurse, in the postcode of 5606.

I began studying Registered Nursing in 1970, at Adelaide Childrens Hospital, but left after 12 months because I married and was then living in the country too far away to commute.

I waited until my 5 children were nearly all finished school, then commenced Enrolled Nurse training through TAFE. I was then able to work in a busy Hospital for 10 years followed by 1 year as a Prison Nurse.

I have known of kids who battle at school but TAFE gives them the chance to be able to learn skills to enable them to look to the future with hope and realise that they can actually do worthwhile things. It encourages them to look to getting into the workforce.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is the only hope for many underprivileged young people to become independent and gain a sense of pride in their achievement. These people simply cannot afford to travel, (probably no vehicle) or bear the expense of having to live away from home just to be able to further their study to enable them to gain employment.

Submitted by

Pauline Martin of Port Lincoln

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Vivien Langford, of Paddington make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 45 years old and work as a radio producer, in the postcode of 2021.

I was a Tafe teacher for many years in Sydney. I enjoyed teaching History and English to students many of whom had dropped out of school earlier and now grasped this second chance with glee.

I think TAFE gives students access to people who have worked in many fields, who are not from an ivory tower and who can guide them into making the most of their chances for employment.

I remember one young man who had failed at school but when he was a bit more mature did his HSC at TAFE and went on to become a photographer for National Geographic.

A friend of mine who is a fine potter went to live in Mudgee where she regained her skills in pottery and opened her own business. She was unable to continue however with advanced classes or even teach in these excellent art courses because they were soon cancelled because funds were scarce.

I eventually moved from working long hours in TAFE because my job was never secure. I was eternally a casual despite having had 15 years full time experience before my children were born in both public and private schools. Funding cuts made all our teaching departments insecure and less substantial.

I think the cuts have meant that we are not training apprentices as we used to. On my radio show I have interviewed TAFE co-ordinators in Victoria and NSW and they say that they need to be training workers for the renewable energy revolution which is on the horizon. Because TAFE is kept so insecure it can't help Australia prepare for the future in the way we should be able to expect.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need workers with a down to earth education. Teachers with practical skills to impart need to have secure careers and an encouragement to innovate.

Submitted by

Vivien Langford of Paddington

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

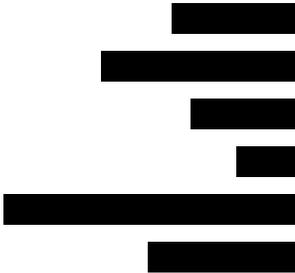
I, Vivian Campbell, of Gelorup make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I live near a large regional town in WA. My two sons both got the start to their working life via the local TAFE. TAFE's are a critical part of our education system and we should be putting in more money to the system and not less. There must be provision close to home for our young people so that they can have support from home and also provide educational opportunities for those in the regions who need another chance. In our changing world re-education is very important and families require the support where they live so campuses must not be closed.

Submitted by

Vivian Campbell of Gelorup

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Stuart Hall, of Burwood make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a service technician, in the postcode of 3125.

I first started TAFE in the year 2000, which led to my first job working in power electronics, without the skills and experience I gained at TAFE I would not have the job I do today and I would not be able to provide for my family as I do. I have always hoped to return to study more at TAFE and further my career unfortunately the rising costs have prevented me from doing so.

I strongly believe that TAFE contributes a lot to the workforce of Australia today and hopefully continues to do so for the future, not everybody is an academic or wants to become a Dr, Scientist or Engineer, etc. TAFE allows people to gain good jobs with a great background, and if they would like to they can continue on to Uni as well.

TAFE gave my brother a second chance when his career as a baker was cut short due to an allergy he developed to a component in wheat, he was able to retrain and became a highly regarded member of an IT team at a large multinational company in his mid 30s

I do not live in a regional area, however my wife and I would like to move to a regional area and it does concern me that our children may not have the same opportunities we had during our education through the TAFE system

I have only heard of poorly regulated private colleges from the media and if the reports are true I think they should be shut down and more money put back into original large TAFE institutions such as Swinburne.

I have noticed the budget cuts affecting my local TAFE as they closed a campus near our home and I know of several staff delivering technical education that have lost their jobs due to the cuts, unbelievable as these were good people delivering solid course material of a high standard.

In my experience the government TAFE budget cuts have destroyed the TAFE system, putting education out of reach for people on low incomes, I know I would not have been able to afford TAFE at the current rates when I finished high school, would not have achieved a good education and would not have ended up in the position I currently hold, it would have honestly struggled to achieve what I have in my life time.

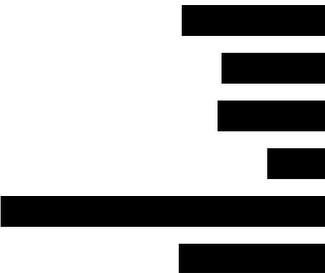
I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because without my TAFE education I would never have made it to the job I am in which provides for my family, has ensured I have a career and a future that I don't need to worry about, without further funding and a reduction in TAFE fees I can't see my children having the

same opportunities I had and that scares the hell out of me.

Submitted by

Stuart Hall of Burwood

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Janet Kossy, of Newtown make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retired school careers adviser and visual artist, in the postcode of 2042.

As a careers adviser, I was always aware of, and keen to communicate, the vital importance of TAFE to young people and to the society. At its best a flexible provider responsive to the needs of individuals, industry and the common good in ways that no other institution was or could be, it was an educational resource for everyone. It provided life-changing opportunities for countless people with multiple disadvantages as well as more privileged people like myself. After retirement I have sought the second "alternative" career I dreamed of--as a visual artist. Excellent TAFE art education has helped me to realise this dream.

TAFE provides a sector of educational provision that is absolutely vital for skill

development and maintenance for the country. This cannot be done by private providers, as we really do need provision which looks at a longer term, bigger picture which does not always coincide with short term profitability.

Just one small example: my classmates in the Fine Arts Diploma course at Meadowbank TAFE included many students of all ages who had never finished school and for whom school had been fraught with problems. The positive learning experience at TAFE so obviously and profoundly altered their confidence and sense of possibility for the better! Many have gone on to enrol in university courses and/or to establish fulfilling careers.

I know from my years as a careers adviser about the danger of poorly regulated private providers, and more recently have heard horror stories about shockingly inadequate provision in areas as crucial and vulnerable as child care.

All government funding has been withdrawn from Fine Arts in NSW TAFE. Many students are unable to pay the huge fees, the provision has been cut drastically, and this iconic and essential section of TAFE across the state is likely to dwindle to nothing after around 150 years of existence.

TAFE Fine Art cannot compete even with the community colleges and local community art schools under these draconian and sudden cuts, let alone provide an avenue into the arts industries for the cross section of people who were educated there in the past.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is one of the institutions which has made Australia a relatively egalitarian and humane, as well as skilled, clever and creative country. We will seriously endanger the cohesion of our society if we lose or diminish it.

Submitted by

Janet Kossy of Newtown

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Neil Renison, of Townsville make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

Apart from the obvious need for Australia to have a well trained and competent workforce there is also the social need that Australians need the opportunities for employment that increasingly are going to require post school training and certification. The social cost of Australia having a large pool of untrained and possibly unemployable people is enormous and threatening.

So the big question is how is this to be arranged and funded. Our local Tafe is a good example of how not to do it. Surely people choosing to take a trade focussed education path have the right to the same level of support and quality of facilities as those choosing university courses; however this seems not to be the case and is thus inequitable. History and the division of State and Federal responsibilities may explain why Tafe is in such a position, but we look to this Inquiry to find a better path.

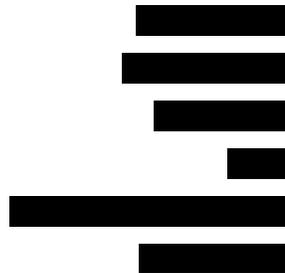
In summary I see the role of Tafe as bigger than just a training provider. It has a vital place in our social structure and as a provider of opportunity.

Thanks for your consideration.

Submitted by

Neil Renison of Townsville

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, John Carson, of Stuart Park make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I started of my working life as and apprentice boilermaker in Adelaide Ship Construction. I attended TAFE school one night a week and one day a fortnight. In my 4th year I was promoted to the drawing office as a structural Detail Draftsman. When the Shipyard closed down I found a job as Boilermaker in Maintenance work then as a Draftsman again for a 4years.

I then moved to the Country Victoria to manage a Farm Machinery company, then to work in my own business as Farm Welding Service building sheds and repairing Farm equipment.

I then moved to Darwin as a TAFE teacher in the Metal Fabrication welding area for 5 years, then after further study I went on to teach Workplace Training programs and the use of computers and CAD in TAFE.

I did further studies in Computing and I now work as and I technician in my own business fixing computers.

I have an extensive knowledge of TAFE as and apprentice and a Tafe teacher. I can only state that with the privatisation of Government Infrastructure eg.. Electricity, Water Supply, Railways, GPO, Telstra. These organisations had large apprentice intakes and training centers which helped to supply the tradesmen for the future. Once they were privatised this all but stopped.

The other observation was the introduction of private providers who main reason for their existence is to make a profit not the training of apprentices they have taken so much of the money an resources from TAFE and have not proven to be a efficient trainers of apprentices as the TAFE system.

My last observation was when apprentice wages were cut by the Howard Government. This made it almost impossible for 1-3rd year apprentices to live independently and made getting a trade not a desirable career option.

TAFE colleges could be the saving of our nation if we resourced them properly, paid the TAFE teachers what they are worth and encouraged young people to see a trade and a positive option for a career. We could overcome our skill shortages and have a vibrant innovative workforce. But while Governments see TAFE as a burdan instead of investing in the future we will always have skill shortages.

Submitted by

John Carson of Stuart Park

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Dennis Bardenhagen, of Coburg make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Electrical linesman, in the postcode of 3058.

I have been in the power industry for 36 years. I was fortunate to do a Cert 3 Electricians apprenticeship at the Kangan Tafe in Broadmeadows in about 2001. A very attentive and professional campus.

In my case and the much younger guys I studied with was the high and up to date standard of tuition we received.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes. A lot of fly by night international schools that have suddenly closed or have gone into solvency.

A friend of mine with at least 20 years of service in motor mechanics was made redundant at the Hoppers Crossing Tafe in the last 2 years. I have read numerous media reports of staff cuts or complete sections closing down.

Stripped it of funding for staff and resources.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because if we don't provide training especially in the trade sector we will have little or NO skills to pass on. We have a moral obligation to encourage and provide the training to secure our nation's future

Submitted by

Dennis Bardenhagen of Coburg

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Rod darmody, of Cranbourne north make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Spray Painter, in the postcode of 3175.

Tafe is the only education that I have received that made sense to me. I struggled through normal school and thought very poorly of myself. Tafe taught me skills and gave me the confidence to not only find employment but thrive.. I have been employed constantly for 22 years.. I am proud of my trade and my work...

I get very upset when non trades people attack Tafe for without it I would be lost..

It taught me a trade and business.

I helped build a paint shop that has kept 80-120 people employed for the last 10 years

..

They use my methods and when I say mine I guess they were taught to me through Tafe.. 1 well trained person teaches others and lifts many other workers up. We make

items for automotive companies and do great work as a team.

Sorry no

Poor Tafe funding makes me worry about younger people..

Mc Donald's and Safeway are not a future.

Trades equal a career more than a job

No not yet

I enquired about mechatronics course they were unsure they could run the course with the lower funding

I pay big tax every week.

I have never been on the dole

For every one of me there is people employed to help me prepare and paint.. I make work and jobs for others

Submitted by

Rod darmody of Cranbourne north

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Lisa Harvey, of The Gap make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a mother/student, in the postcode of 4061.

I went to TAFE when I was 15 and completed a certificate and associate diploma degrees in Business (Hospitality). This allowed me to study in a more flexible environment, as I was very ill at the time. It also allowed me to go on to university, something that I thought would not be possible for me.

TAFE gives people of all ages the opportunity to up-skill within their own career or the chance to provide a better life for their families by learning a new skill. People also are given the education to build their own businesses and contribute to the economy by employing other people.

I had to leave school at age 15, in the middle of grade 10, as I was very ill. TAFE gave

me a second chance by giving me a very flexible environment where I could manage my illness, and still be able to stay within the education system. It also fulfilled my dream of going to uni, which I succeeded in doing. I am now a mature-aged student at uni doing a different degree, but this wouldn't have been possible if I did not go to TAFE 25 years ago. Had I not had the option of TAFE, I would have been on a disability pension, with no future and no hope.

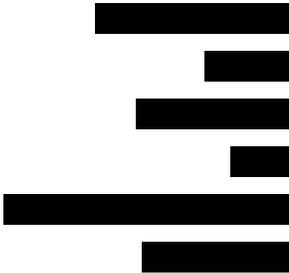
TAFE allowed me to be eligible to enrol at uni due to the high education standards offered.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE gives those who are different, underprivileged, suffering from mental or physical illness or those who have been rejected by the formal school system, a chance at being a full participant in the economy of this country - not be a financial deficit.

Submitted by

Lisa Harvey of The Gap

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Graeme Bennett, of Warners Bay make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Maintenance Coordinator, in the postcode of 2304.

When I finished school in the late 70's I attended Tighes Hill Tafe in Newcastle and completed a Fitting & Turning Apprenticeship. Going to Tafe shaped my life and gave me a future.

Tafe teaches the required skills you have chosen as a career path. Without Tafe you people would have little or no future in gaining good employment.

Fitting & Turning wasn't available when I went to school, so Tafe was the obvious choice to follow my goals.

Without Tafe because of stupid funding cuts would be criminal. The people who are

considering this have NO idea what is required in the real world. They are fools.....

From what I've heard there are quite a few courses now unavailable because of the cuts. It seems money or lack of, including unwise spending is more important than furthering people education.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it IS MOST DEFINITELY REQUIRED for the ongoing future of education in the state and country. Our younger generation will be the future in this country, please remember this.....

Submitted by

Graeme Bennett of Warners Bay

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Peter Parfitt, of Ethelton make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 62 years of age and I live and work in Ethelton, South Australia. I am working as a self-employed educational consultant after a career of 40 years with the South Australia Police.

In the early 1980s I began study with TAFE because it was a required programme in the South Australia Police promotional system. Prior to that I had never considered myself able to study. I finished my studies and was encouraged to continue. I now have a Master of Education degree and other postgraduate qualifications. Without that introduction to TAFE I would have not very much at all.

TAFE is a bedrock for vocational education and training. It offers not only a pathway for school leavers but also a second chance for adults like me and for newly arrived persons in Australia. It contributes to the total competence of Australia.

Please above. I moved from detective work in SA Police to education and training to teach in the TAFE-SA Police programme and had the pleasure of seeing my colleagues progress through the programme. Some like me went on to further study. All benefited.

I live in the Adelaide metro area which is well served by TAFE. If it were to be cut back at all it would be a terrible backward step.

I work in the adult and community education industry primarily. I see TAFE as a very useful adjunct to ACE particularly in the areas of people returning to work and new arrivals. I can't see private colleges as providing the way TAFE does.

I know courses have been cut and that means people miss out.

I remember when the system was well funded and it was lively, people everywhere day and night studying. Now that activity has dropped off somewhat.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because I value education and it took TAFE to allow me to understand the necessity for education. TAFE is a way for people to become employable or to get into higher education. Please don't let it be destroyed.

Submitted by

Peter Parfitt of Ethelton

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Jane Peterson, of Newtown make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Titles Officer, in the postcode of 2042.

When I changed my career in 1985, I obtained a job at the Land Property Information office.

When I started my job, was encouraged to obtain skills in Business Administration. I studied keyboarding, communication, computer skills, word processing, spreadsheets and other miscellaneous secretarial subjects at the Randwick campus at the Sydney Institute of Technology. These courses allowed me to be promoted from a Clerical Assistant to a Clerk in Dealing Examination and Examination.

I demonstrated an aptitude for survey drafting and was encouraged by my employer, LPI, to study the Associate Diploma in Land Information Systems (now Spatial

Information Systems.) at the Ultimo campus of the Sydney Institute of Technology and work as a trainee in Survey Drafting.

After I completed my 4 year part-time course in Associate Diploma in Land Information Systems (Credit), I received two promotions and became a Project Officer, Grade 3-4, in LPI.

Subsequently, I studied the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment at the Petersham campus of the Sydney Insitute of Technology.

I have used my TAFE qualifications to gain my current position in the LPI as a CAD AND IMAGING CONVERSION OFFICER, GRADE 5-6, in the Crown Land Conversion Project.

I am physically disabled and the TAFE staff have given support and encouragement in my courses. They have allowed me time off my classes while I received essential medical treatment and helped me make up the lost time. Without their support, I would not have obtained my qualifications.

Currently, I am upgrading my skills in Microsoft Office 2010 at TAFE. Unlike private trainers, they provide textbooks and practice in the Microsoft Office 2010 programs - Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Outlook etc. At the end of the course, I am assessed in these courses. If I am competent, I will be given a Australian recognised certificate.

In the past I have attended courses at LPI provided by private companies. The private companies only give one day courses in computer programs. They are expensive, provide poor quality notes and give no or limited practical training in these programs.

They do not assess my competency in these programs at the end of the one day course. I am just given a certificate that has no value.

In my opinion, TAFE gives value or money.

Although I have postgraduate University qualifications, they did not provide with the knowledge and practical skills I required in the workplace. TAFE helped me to develop the knowledge and skills for work in the LPI.

TAFE will provide me with the skills for work such as the Electronic Conveyancing System in the future.

TAFE gave me a second chance in another career - survey drafting and GIS, after I had to leave my first career in Microbiology for medical reasons.

I do not live in a regional area.

I have attended courses at work provided by poorly regulated private colleges with lower standards than TAFE.

In the past I have attended courses at LPI provided by private companies. The private companies only give one day courses in computer programs. They are expensive, provide poor quality notes and give no or limited practical training in these programs. They do not assess my competency in these programs at the end of the one day course. I am just given a certificate that has no value.

The certificate is not recognized as an Australian qualification.

The budget cuts is affecting my local TAFE at Ultimo.

It has limited my opportunities to attend classes in Microsoft Office 2010 during the week.

Instead I am only able to attend the Flexible Learning Centre in the School of Business Administration on Wednesday mornings (half flexiday) and Saturday afternoons.

There is no opportunity to study at night.

In my experience, the state government significant TAFE cuts have impacted on the TAFE system. They have decreased the number of courses available for students and trainees. In addition, they have reduced the number of classes and teachers available for students.

This limits the opportunities available for students who want to obtain skills and qualifications in order to get jobs.

it also makes it difficult for workers who want to upgrade their skills and qualifications so that they can keep their job.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is cost efficient method for teaching school students, the unemployed and workers skills so that they can become part of the workforce.

Submitted by

Jane Peterson of Newtown

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Zeb Russell, of Koumala make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Miner , in the postcode of 4738.

I myself am study to gain my open cut examiners ticket and without the support from the Tafe I might had to find a less reputable institution to gain my qualification with.

By having knowledgeable people trained in that field to teach people trade skills to push us ahead.

You not have done so well at school but Tafe will assist me in earning more money than if I had limited skills.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means... Freedom

They have gone from many staff to 3 I believe in the department

Less personal attention

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it will drive the future of less fortunate people

Submitted by

Zeb Russell of Koumala

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Anthony Moore, of Nudgee make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Teacher, in the postcode of 4014.

Well at my age I don't really think that extra study is for me. I am a qualified teacher with a Diploma of teaching TAFE and a BED. My teaching career has consisted of 20.7 years teaching in TAFE QLD and since 2001 I have been teaching in a catholic secondary college. To add to the qualifications list I am a qualified tradesman. The time that I spent teaching in TAFE was not only a very important part of my life but one that I enjoyed immensely. I was offered a VER in 2000 and accepted due to my opinion that TAFE was not the place to be as I felt that the GOVERNMENT didn't want to train and were making things difficult for those at the coal face.
The

My skilled area of expertise is in the building trades and I really believe that in many

ways that the workforce is becoming deskilled and I do believe that this is due to the fact that the government has very little interest in training.

During the years that I spent teaching in TAFE I witnessed numerous individuals experiencing the opportunity to expand their skill base and give them a greater opportunity for employment.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...I really have no comment on this question.

That has been in vogue for quite a number of years since the introduction of private providers.

I have no first hand experience but from talking to acquaintances from TAFE in recent times the government are not making things any easier for those employed in TAFE.

They have completely starved it of necessary funding to ensure success appearing to make sure that TAFE colleges/institutes struggle.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because there is a definite need to ensure that future generations are given the opportunity to further their skills and that highly TRADE teachers are there to provide the necessary training.

Submitted by

Anthony Moore of Nudgee

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Eric McCann, of Kew East make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Teacher, in the postcode of 3102.

I grew up on a farm in northern Victoria, and TAFE served as a crucial part of life/career options for the entire community. One of 4 siblings, I the only one who has not studied at a TAFE, however for my three siblings it was critical in providing vocational training in a local environment at an affordable cost.

I have taught specialist courses at TAFE, and although I have not maintained a career in that system, acknowledge how TAFE supports most Victorian families, and especially rural families in achieving financial security.

See above

Not a second chance. A first chance. In rural settings it is often a preferred career

option.

TAFE courses vary from campus to campus, and from region to region. The uniqueness of each one has developed over time in response to need, and often people move to be near a particular campus in order to access those particular skills (circus skills, hospitality etc) in addition to more general trade skills found in many rural centred. I think all if these TAFE courses are valuable and should be maintained by the government (state)

What a loaded question! Yes

Yes

Severely undermined the ability to provide programs of quality. In fling so the state governments responsible have forsaken their responsibility.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because our society's fabric and future depends on investment in government education streams.

Submitted by

Eric McCann of Kew East

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Melinda Tonks, of Berriedale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a State Service Employee, in the postcode of 7000.

I graduated from TAFE in 1994 with an Associate Diploma in Community Services. I undertook study at TAFE in order to improve my chances of gaining meaningful employment after several years of dead end jobs. I was able to use my qualification to work in the NGO community services sector for 11 years, at the end of which I was managing a drug and alcohol organisation. I then gained employment with the Tasmanian State Service and have just recently returned to TAFE (now known as Tasmanian Polytechnic) to study Visual Arts. I intend on continuing next year for my Diploma and then possibly to UTas for a degree in fine art.

TAFE contributes to a smart and strong Australia in that it gives people flexible and accessible education options. With the average person changing career directions on

average of 5 times during their working lives, it offers a range of courses for people to do this with more ease and affordability than University. For people in my situation, at present, Uni is not a viable option. TAFE offered me the opportunity to study now, rather than having to wait until I have more free time to attend Uni.

As I have already stated, TAFE gave me the opportunity to train for a qualification in order to gain meaningful employment. AS a sole parent with a small child (when I was studying) I was also able to take advantage of cheap child care and gain a job in short time after qualifying, so I could give my son a brighter future. If I hadn't been able to work in a well paid job, he would not have been able to have the opportunities I was able to afford for him. I believe this has stood him in good stead for when he completes University (which he may not have considered if I hadn't placed an emphasis on his need to have a good education).

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...At least one more alternative to University. We have one University here in Tasmania, which is spread across the state. I know many women in their late thirties and early forties who have wanted to study nursing, but because of family commitments, they opt for enrolled nursing first which takes less time to qualify for which means they can start to earn and support their families sooner. This in turn offers better choices and chances for their children,

No. I am only aware of one private college here in Tasmania, so am not able to comment.

Yes. I know that the teachers of my course have just been asked to make savings for the course I am currently studying. Tasmania has a large and strong art community and there is a huge amount of talent in this state that could be one of the draw cards for visitors, yet is mostly ignored by our politicians in favor of industries that they

believe are better and bigger money spinners. If it wasn't for co-location with Utas arts campus, I doubt that there would be any art course offered at all!

I am not a big wage earner, but I have to pay full fees and they have gone up significantly and this is making it more difficult for people such as I to access further education and training. Perhaps a more equitable system of user pays (with a graduated payment system) would encourage more consumers.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€If young people stop using our education facilities we will have a country full of unqualified people and no work force. There is no point training people with outdated and outmoded systems and equipment. How are we expected to compete with other countries without a skilled work force? I know my life would not be as enjoyable if I was not able to utilise further education in the past , now or in the future.

Submitted by

Melinda Tonks of Berriedale

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Victoria Sellick, of Swan view make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Business development coordinator, in the postcode of 6000.

I attended TAFE when I left high school commencing in 1999. My father was a lecturer at TAFE and was made redundant which affected him and our family greatly. We lost the family home and I cut my course short to commence work. Since then I returned to TAFE and have completed short courses on offer whilst working. I know many people who do not fit the university profile and where TAFE ha provided them with specialist training which would otherwise have to be sourced outside of Australia.

It is far more hands on and practical.

It provided my mother with a program to get back into the workforce. Not to mention

the availability of short courses for interests and passions to many people I know.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I haven't had the exposure in order to notice this so unable to answer.

As above.

My father lost his job.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is as valuable as university and often essential for our youth who re the future of Australia.

Submitted by

Victoria Sellick of Swan view

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, James Balck, of Greenwich make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a self-employed, in the postcode of 2065.

I studied Chemistry at Wollongong TAFE in the late 60s and in 2010 at Petersham TAFE where I studied News Media. For 20 years I developed curriculum for TAFE NSW, until National Training Packages made my job redundant. I used to enjoy the professionalism and quality of the work I did. Undoubtedly, the teacher/trainers at TAFE were inspiring.

TAFE delivers relevant up to date training for those seeking employment.

The major role of TAFE has been to offer up-skilling for current workers and to deliver training for alternative work. It has also borne the responsibility for the re-skilling of older workers and preparing students with disabilities for work.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means training for preferred areas of work. If courses are cut, ambitions will be thwarted or dashed. The alternative of distance-learning will be best served with full-speed broadband.

There are many private providers, who charge high fees for training that is simply tick-box, and the qualifications awarded in this way can be considered dubious, and could lead individuals to harm themselves or others in the workplace.

When courses are dropped teachers lose their jobs. TAFE Institutes in NSW are struggling to survive.

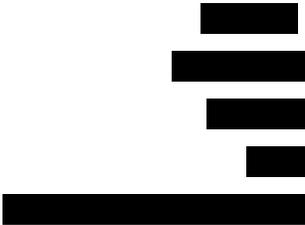
The O'Farrell government is only the worst offender in a long line of NSW governments, that have squeezed TAFE financially for decades. Restructures have been frequent in the past 20 odd years. This is the first time though that the teaching profession has been hit directly.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the quality, consistency and availability of relevant training is necessary for Australia in the 21st Century.

Submitted by

James Balck of Greenwich

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Michelle , of Pymont make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Creative director in my own design studio, in the postcode of 2009.

I studied at TAFE and did my photography & film making to add greater value to my existing creative skills. The additional skills allowed me to start up my own Design studio.

I would love to do more studies at TAFE including psychology and counselling courses.

TAFE can be done in the evening after work and being subsidized it was very easy to consider it. If TAFE was not available I would never have been able to afford to study these subjects professionally. Yes, it is only because of TAFE that I got added professional skills. The technical skills enabled me to learn and step straight into the market place. The technical training provided by TAFE is fantastic and really sets you for the existing marketplace.

It has allowed me to start up my own design studio and give me the opportunity to run my own business.

N/a to my situation as I live in Sydney city area.

Brilliant professional industry professionals who take time out to teach us have been demoralized because their hours are cut back etc.

new material is not being invested in and so we were not able to access everything we needed to

This has definitely affected students being able to afford attending classes which is a shame because I found TAFE incredibly valuable to progress my career and enhance my skills and abilities.

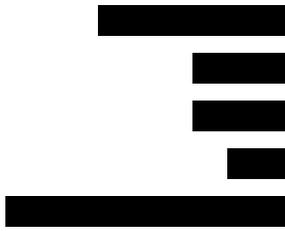
I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it helps students to progress in their careers so they can earn more and become more valuable contributors in society.

Some students like myself can also become entrepreneurs and business owners and the Govt really needs to recognize how valuable TAFE is to the country.

Submitted by

Michelle of Pymont

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Dave Eccleshall, of Franklin make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a network engineer, in the postcode of 7113.

I dropped out of Yr 12 due to family issues.

If I didn't have TAFE as an alternative (and equally importantly, relevant) option, there is zero chance I would have had the successful career I have had.

TAFE is so much more important for technical trades and professions. I know a lot more practical electronics than any electrical engineer I've ever met, and in 20 years there's been a few.

As stated above, I had no choice but to drop out of high school, TAFE saved my bacon as I had no option for uni entry.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need to maintain our skills in this country...the brain drain doesn't just apply to uni-qualified people.

Submitted by

Dave Eccleshall of Franklin

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Judith Szalontai, of Ballarat make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Trainer and Assessor, in the postcode of 3350.

I am secondary Teacher, but have chosen to use my many years of experience in the Community Sector to train post secondary students, and give them the opportunity of a great career.

I was able to gain my Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, as well as my Certificate IV in Disability and Certificate II in Aged Care/HACC through TAFE. Now I am passing on my skills and knowledge to others and I love seeing people find a career and a new life.

TAFE gives people fantastic opportunities to train and learn for their careers, increases skills and candidates for all sectors, and gives people hope!

So many of the students I have trained have grown and blossomed into people who find they CAN and they DO. It is beautiful to see!!!

Students become confident and contributing members of the community. Even those who have had traumatic and 'no hope' pasts, have grown and changed their lives!

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means fantastic opportunities to change lives!

YES! And I have worked in some. Not for long. It is cruel!

Absolutely. People are wondering what they are going to do now, where they can go to learn and grow.

Absolutely! Classes have been cut, Teachers have lost jobs, students have lost hope!

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is ABSOLUTELY VITAL for all in our communities, and gives people the chance at changing their lives for the greater good!

Submitted by

Judith Szalontai of Ballarat

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Rebecca Curtain, of Ringwood East make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a Social Worker, in the postcode of 3136.

I left school at the end of year 11 with a self belief that I was not smart and had very little career prospects. With the support of my parents, I enrolled in TAFE. The course that I embarked on was inspiring and showed me a new way of learning that my secondary education had failed to do. With the support of the teaching staff, I achieved excellent marks. However, more importantly, it fostered a self belief within me that I could achieve and since then I have completed two University degrees and have a successful career. However, none of this would have been possible without TAFE.

History has also repeated itself and I have seen my eldest daughter struggle throughout her secondary education and her self esteem plummet. She is now a TAFE student and doing exceptionally well, with career aspirations that she never

otherwise would have had.

My husband is a TAFE plumbing teacher and I am aware that his department endeavors to provide students with the current regulations and skills that are required for good plumbers in the current workforce. The team work tirelessly to ensure that their students become the best plumbers possible.

As I said in statement 2, TAFE gave both my daughter and myself a second chance. Without this quality and affordable education, our career prospects would not be what they are now.

My husband works with a lot of young males who have struggled at school, for them, TAFE provides them with an alternative to an academic career.

I have also had the opportunity to work as a Youth Worker at our local TAFE and work with large groups of young people who are disengaged from formal secondary education and have come to TAFE as an alternative. For many of these young people, TAFE has been a lifeline.

Being as tradesman, my husband is aware of many people in his industry and other trades, who have employed staff who were educated at private colleges. There experiences have been that their knowledge and skill base are far inferior to those who have been through the TAFE system.

I have a colleague who has attended a private college that was offering the same qualification that I obtained at a TAFE, her experience was a far inferior learning experience to the one that I had.

The budget cuts are making a huge impact at my local TAFE. One of their campuses will be closed down.

My husband is currently on a three year contract that ends in December. When he

initially got his job there, he was told that it was just a formality that he had a three year contract and would most likely have it renewed to ongoing on the completion of his 3 year contract. However, following the budget cuts, contracts are no longer being renewed and highly skilled teachers are losing their jobs on a regular basis.

It is devastating for my husband as he closed a thriving plumbing business to become a plumbing teacher. He is a wonderful teacher and always ensures that he provides his students with a high quality service. With constant staff members leaving, he is required to work harder and longer hours. His department has also lost most administrative staff and therefore, teachers are expected to provide quality teaching skills as well as completion of all administration. My husband reports that morale in the TAFE is low and people are constantly worried about their jobs.

I have also been aware of a number of secondary school children who are no longer able to come to the TAFE as part of VCAL because they can no longer afford the courses.

The impact has been huge and not only are we seeing current courses being cut, and staff losing their jobs, we are going to see the impact over the years when young disengaged people and people who have lost their jobs will no longer have the option of an affordable, high quality and accessible education such as TAFE. The impact that we are seeing now is only the beginning.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is supporting our futures and ensuring that all people have educational opportunities. TAFE is an essential part of our community and we need to support those who are most vulnerable such as young people and those who have become unemployed and need to re-skill in order to access employment.

Submitted by

Rebecca Curtain of Ringwood East

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Sigrid Lublow, of Chatswood make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a policy officer, in the postcode of 2000.

When I was still attending high school I learnt touch typing at TAFE and also attended an accountancy course. Back then TAFE was free. The touch typing still comes in very useful for all the keyboard work we now do at our computers for work and at home.

TAFE has been an excellent provider of knowledge and skills for people interested in taking on apprenticeships especially in the Trades as employers have become more loathe to invest in apprentices.

For me it would have been my typing skills as this was not taught at school when I went to school.

Not living in a big area such as Cooma, being able to go to TAFE meant that I could continue going to school and live at home while doing the course. My parents would not have been able to afford to send me to a larger city to do this. One of the reasons why I didn't attend university after my schooling was finished. I moved to a larger regional centre and undertook adult education at the university there later on.

I haven't personally noticed these but have read about personal experiences in letters columns of local papers etc. I also know of prospective tradies not being able to get apprenticeships.

My mother did a pottery course at the Cooma TAFE many years ago when we still lived there. Apparently these type of courses have been abolished.

The increase in fees has discriminated against lower income earners making it impossible to attend courses and some courses have been completely abolished.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because everyone in the community needs to have access to affordable training and our communities definitely need more tradespeople. We also need courses such as pottery etc to be available to keep people in the community who are not otherwise engaged motivated. Language courses are also very beneficial and i know of 2 friends that have in the past undertaken such courses at their local TAFE. The courses were extremely useful to them and were highly recommended.

Submitted by

Sigrid Lublow of Chatswood

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Anne Brelsford, of Legana make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retiree, in the postcode of 7277.

I have worked as a counsellor and adult educator in the past, and been aware of the importance of TAFE options for young people in both of those roles.

I have attended TAFE courses myself when relevant, and have found them good. Since the introduction of the various Cert I, Cert II, Cert III courses there seems to have been a bit of "dumbing down" of TAFE programs, but perhaps that is just my impression?

Also my husband worked in a TAFE Library for many years, and I am well aware, through him, of the constant slashing of TAFE budgets that has gone on for DECADES, never mind years.

TAFE has NEVER been properly funded to do its job, and then people criticize it for failing to deliver.

If TAFE were properly funded and developed to provide good skills for a variety of jobs, perhaps we would not have so many national skills shortages, and the need to recruit skilled workers from overseas? Perhaps our own young people could find careers and get a direction in life?

Perhaps also we would not have a crisis in the state of young men in particular in this county. Generations of young men have now passed through schools and on to the wonderful world of "Newstart" or its cousins....with no properly working apprenticeship schemes or really good alternative routes to employment. Not everyone is suited to university, but so much effort and cash gets directed to those who are in that category. The absence of entry grade positions into various careers is a major issue as well.

I have known a number of people faced with redundancy who have been able to move on to new careers. In particular, many have focused on successfully starting their own businesses, and have gained skills for this through TAFE.

Rural Tasmania might as well be desert for all the opportunities it offers young people, or even older people facing redundancy or the collapse of their industry. For example, there is not even a high school which goes to year 12 on the East coast of Tassie. And no real TAFE presence except in cities. In this instance, it is not a case of regional TAFE being under threat...it has never even been set up in the first place, and is desperately needed!!! Our forestry workers need retraining, for example, but where can they get it?

I have worked in a private business college as a temporary substitute. When I failed a student who had missed many classes and submitted only one assignment out of four, the Manager called me in to his office and told me that the boy's parents had paid big money for the kid to pass, and directed me to find some way of passing him. Mind you, I hear this occurs at other levels of tertiary education also, particularly with foreign

students.

The Library in the TAFE where my husband formerly worked has certainly not been able to fill positions again once they are left vacant, so the staff is now a small pool of workers.

In Tasmania a former premier played politics with the whole TAFE system, which went into Polytechnic mode, but I understand is now struggling to re-orient itself as a TAFE. TAFE funding needs to be generous, but well managed and closely monitored from a Federal level. It is ridiculous to have every Tom Dick and Harry of a premier playing around with these systems.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is urgently needed to provide viable alternatives for young people who are not geared to University, and also needed to assist many older workers to retrain and deal with redundancy and loss of work.

Submitted by

Anne Brelsford of Legana

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Amanda Fennessy, of PO Taradale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Manager, in the postcode of 3450.

I am beginning a TAFE course on Monday night after a 10 year break. I work full time.

Didn't it take over from Tech schools therefore offering courses to everyone to upskill.

A lot of people would not have the confidence or finances to go to university so TAFE can fill that gap.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...that the oppppportunity is there for out of towners to attend .

Don't know really

Yes it means I have to travel a lot further with the closure of some TAFES and a cut in the courses offered closer to me. I work full time so this makes my day even longer with the travel

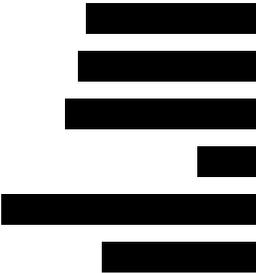
Yes

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because of rural disadvantages that people have living further away may not get the opportunity study

Submitted by

Amanda Fennessy of PO Taradale

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Paul Blackwell, of Toorak Gardens make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a actor, in the postcode of 5065.

My eldest son did a course at TAFE after yr 12, it wasn't his first choice and he didn't complete the year. However he applied for his first choice the following year and was successful in gaining a place. He completed this 3 year course with a Bachelor degree. After some experience in the world and intermittently in the workforce he has just successfully applied for an MA degree at UniSA.

The important thing is, he didn't blossom academically at school but his experience at TAFE and the quality teaching he encountered there gave him the confidence and the direction to develop and follow his passion, in this case Photography in a Bachelor of Visual Arts and Applied Design.

Whilst his photography work has brought him critical approval it hasn't provided him with a regular income.

He is now about to commence an MA in Business and Cultural Administration, something he has some knowledge and enthusiasm for and something which hopefully will provide a more steady career opportunity.

I believe his TAFE experience was critical in giving him self-confidence and realising that he has a lot to offer and making him aware of the many pathways available.

The boy who was deflated and miserable after year 12 has developed into an enthusiastic, buoyant, confident young man with a huge amount to offer.

I think I've covered this with the example I gave above.

Ditto

I live in Adelaide

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded.

I offer my story as evidence of the effectiveness of TAFE education.

Submitted by

Paul Blackwell of Toorak Gardens

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Rosemary Clark, of NORTH FITZROY make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a n/a, in the postcode of 3068.

I completed a Diploma of Visual Art at a TAFE college post retirement from full-time employment. It has been an important part of my transition to a different stage in my life, for which I am very grateful.

Although I am an older student, I worked alongside many younger people for whom TAFE was a pathway to a career or to higher education studies. Its emphasis on practical skills as well as theory is what students really value about TAFE.

Many mature age students use TAFE courses to change their career path. The courses are shorter and more accessible than university courses, and were much cheaper.

The budget cuts led to staff losses and decreased subject options for students in the course I completed.

Higher fees have deterred students from enrolling; staff positions have been cut; classes have been cut. Choices for students have been narrowed.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because Australia need a well-trained workforce. I do not believe that small private providers give the value that large public TAFE colleges can offer with facilities like libraries, counsellors etc.

Submitted by

Rosemary Clark of NORTH FITZROY

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Ron Woods, of Alfredton Victoria make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a recently retired local government employee, in the postcode of 3350.

I have an Associate Diploma in Civil Engineering, a qualification I (and several of my former colleagues) had no chance of obtaining before the introduction of TAFE.

TAFE provides training that is directly relevant to the workplace and can be immediately applied to the work students are doing. It also looks to the future, providing training both in areas that are still developing, and areas where there are existing skills shortages.

When I began working in local government, there were no courses available that would enable me to gain any formal qualification, unless I became a full-time university

student (which was not possible in my case). TAFE gave me the opportunity to gain a recognized qualification, which enabled me to apply for more senior positions that required more than just experience.

Regional TAFE colleges provide training opportunities for students in regional areas that they would otherwise be unable to access. I started my course at Box Hill while working in the metropolitan area, but was able to return to Ballarat (my home town) because I could continue my studies in Ballarat. This was not only an advantage for me, it was also a significant advantage for my new employer and the local community.

There does appear to be an increase in poor standard courses being offered by private colleges. I recently completed a short media course at a private college, and felt that it skimmed over some important topics and allowed insufficient "hands-on" classroom time for certain key aspects of the course.

My local TAFE has cut several courses and effectively closed its campus in central Ballarat, moving most remaining courses to the university campus at an outer suburban location that is not well-served by public transport, particularly at night.

The TAFE system is now unable to provide the full range of courses needed to address skills shortages in many areas. The cuts will also result in future skills shortages, as there will be no graduating students available to fill vacancies in many areas.

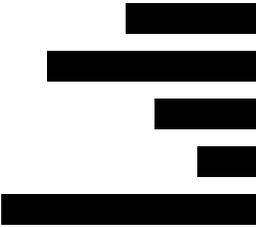
During my time in local government, I was co-opted onto a committee investigating claimed skills shortages in our area. The committee found that there were some very serious skill shortages in a number of critical areas (particularly health care and allied fields). Because the committee included a representative from the local TAFE college,

the college was able to immediately introduce training programs targeted specifically at those critical areas, then follow up with courses to address skill shortages in other important but less-critical areas identified by the committee.

Submitted by

Ron Woods of Alfredton Victoria

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Peter Voigt, of Karratha make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

To whom it may concern

I left school after year 11 at Loxton High School in South Australia where I enrolled in a 12 month multi skilled course at TAFE in Berri SA. Upon completion of the course I believe that that course was the contributing factor to securing an Apprenticeship as an automotive mechanic. Although I am not currently working as an automotive mechanic it has, with out a doubt opened doors across Australia into different positions including a variety of maintenance positions which now has led to a permanent position with a big company in WA. Without my training in the TAFE course I do not believe that I would have had the opportunities that I have experienced. I believe that this Country owes a lot to tertiary education such as TAFE and I think it would be a big mistake not to make this valuable resource available to future generations.

Kind Regards

Peter Voigt

Submitted by

Peter Voigt of Karratha

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Mark Laurendet, of Loftus make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Clerk, in the postcode of 2234.

I started my working life as a BoilerMaker and after my trade I spent about 10 years doing extra TAFE courses relevant to my trade.

After My trade became obsolete I started work as a clerk. But due to the cost of TAFE courses now, and the closing of a lot of TAFE courses I have not been able to do further courses for my current line of work. This had led to not performing the best for myself or my employer as I could do more with further education.

We are told that our trading partners with the best educated staff are positioned best for the work place of the future where we have to compete with low paying countries. So we have to work smarter. If that is the case current policy is working against that.

Current policy seems to be geared towards a de-skilling of the work force in general.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes many courses closed, especially trade when we are told there are shortages. Or you have to travel too far to attend a course if you are already working.

Classes have not only been reduced they are closed.

The current cost structure is obviously aimed at discouraging people from attending courses to further their knowledge.

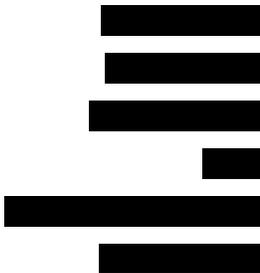
I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because from what I have experienced in the workforce the more people are trained not only in their field but also in general business principles and practices the better the department or organisation works. People understand more why certain managerial decisions are made and more likely to support them.

Clearly at this point in time Government is mainly looking for people who can fully fund their own studies which is widening the difference between working classes.

Submitted by

Mark Laurendet of Loftus

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Carol Corless, of Wynnum West make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a quality technician, in the postcode of 4172.

My daughter attended TAFE after she fell ill during year 11. My daughter completed her year 11 and 12 at TAFE. whilst at TAFE she achieved a Cert 111 in Performing arts as part of her high school studies. My nephew also is training to be a diesel fitter through TAFE.

TAFE assists children who are lost in the normal schooling system. It also assists non academic children to achieve a trade.

By my daughter doing year 11 and 12 at TAFE she gained entry into university last year. She had difficulties during the year but is now trying to regain entry by applying to do the precursor course at TAFE.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

The TAFE my daughter attended is one of the TAFE's that has been targeted to close. This concerns me as a lot of TAFE's have been set up for specific courses and the resources eg room sizes at other campuses may not be there.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is the starting point and a leg up for so many students.

Submitted by

Carol Corless of Wynnum West

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Barrie Collins, of Blackheath make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a writer, in the postcode of 2785.

I studied at the NAS, National Art School, in the 1950's, a very important time in my life. I later taught design and art subjects at TAFE for 10 years during the 70's, I will always remember my students as keen, enthusiastic and open to ideas, it was a privilege being their teacher. I earned a Graduate Diploma in Education (technical) in 1980 but then abandoned teaching because of the insecurity of teaching part time. I should point out that I worked with a full time teaching load for many years - cheap labour you might say, but something I enjoyed and respected as a way of giving to new generations.

TAFE level education provides trade instruction for many industries and commercial concerns. Someone has to do this, certainly its not the responsibility of universities,

other alternatives might include private colleges but these can be very expensive and as we've seen in past years some of these organisations have ripped students off, esp foreign students. TAFE is more trustworthy.

My son learned cooking and chef work at TAFE which enabled him to get a high quality apprenticeship at a local resort in Katoomba. Prior to this he was out of work and aimless.

Please see Q4

I have noticed in recent years scandals with private colleges, particularly with foreign students being exploited. Sorry I can't give examples.

Not that I've noticed but I'm sure there are, our local TAFE is in Katoomba and Wentworth Falls.

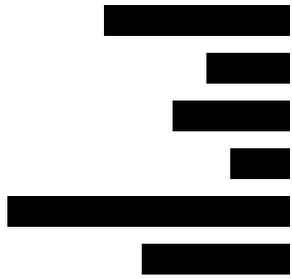
See Q7

TAFE provides a low cost and practical doorway into studies that would otherwise be inaccessible and cost students many thousands of dollars, the elimination of this starting point for students discriminates against those from low income groups. This low cost starting point is used by many to prepare themselves for higher studies elsewhere, ie the TAFE basic fine arts course can give you the preparation and access needed for a university level course in fine arts or teaching.

Submitted by

Barrie Collins of Blackheath

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, David Browning, of katoomba make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a , in the postcode of 2780.

ok..here we go.. I wish to talk about my daughter who was a struggling single mother on supporting pension.She was determined to do better in her life and did not want to spend years on single mothers pension,she wanted to get into a career and get off the pension.She attended Wentworth TAFE to obtain her mature entry to UNY..She did that!!!Joined Woolongong Uny and commenced arts law degree.She with two children finally got a distinction in Social Science and now still working on getting her law degree is fully employed with docs and earning a good income.I don't see how she could have done this without TAFE!!She continues now to getting her final law degree.TAFE is vital for our citizens to continuetheir education.Her essays get many distinctions what more can I say about the value of this institution..??

Simply said it is vital part of OZ education sytem

I've just told you about my daughter she has gone from single mother pension to a \$60,000 a year salary..

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...an oppportuniyt to advance in life.

sorry not in my zone

I am not sure yet about that..I don't have personal knowledge of individual losses

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€TAFE is a pathway to a better future for so many aspiring people.

Submitted by

David Browning of katoomba

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Edna Peterson, of WAIKIKI make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a bookkeeper, in the postcode of 6169.

I lost my job 2009 during the GFC. I thought of upgrading my skills to gain employment in the future. Only TAFE has offered an online course with full teacher support for distant student, studying at my own pace.

TAFE has important contribution to australian workforce. They have varieties of courses offered and night classes to suit individual needs.

My husband Leonard and his friend Arnold has to have this certificate to carry on with their fitter/welder/boiler maker job in the mining. TAFE allow them to take their short courses in a span of 6 weeks. Until now my husband is still working in the mining industry and his friend Arnold is traveling back and fort in China as a quality Inspection

officer. I myself is still a student of TAFE and studying at home while carrying on my other duties to look after my family is a tremendous help.

I live in Perth and my course is only offered in TAFE NSW via distant study. I took my exam in the local TAFE here in Rockingham. Local TAFE funding should not be cut in fact they have to increase it so that local students like me don't have to go elsewhere to get the type of courses we need elsewhere.

Never been to any.

It's affecting now, why else would I get my course to TAFE NSW if it is offered here in Rockingham.

Some courses in not offered and not much study support.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we the students need it, the community needs it, the business sectors need it and if everybody is employed then it is good to our government, more money in tax and good for the economy and our country at large.

Submitted by

Edna Peterson of WAIKIKI

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Alan Yap, of Port Adelaide make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Health Professional, in the postcode of 5000.

A diploma in nursing opened a lot of doors for me in term of employmentship. I am currently a university undergraduate. Comparatively, the course of diploma of nursing pretty much summed up how a nurse can function professionally & effectively in society. This is because the method of teaching and the subjects that were part of the program was so comprehensive that even the registered nurses I work with, who never walked the path of an enrolled nurse, are impressed by how far fetched my nursing knowledge and skills are. Traditionally enrolled nurses are regarded as second to registered nurses. By trades, enrolled nurses have as much nursing skills when it comes to bedside nursing and medication management. Today, enrolled nurses are associate to the registered nurses. To be able to measure up to an academic nurse, the enrolled nurse needs the knowledge and skills which I personally TAFE SA for

providing me that.

TAFE offers short courses and affordable tuition fee for struggling adults who just do not have the time to attend

universities which require much stronger commitment. I personally know a single mother who was a personal care worker who just did not see herself continuing on a path that requires a lot of manual handling. She decided to get her diploma of nursing which saw her finishing in 18 months time. Today she is happy administering medication in a non for profit aged care and 'looking after her back', and bringing home higher income to support her children.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...accessibility to a vocational training that helps me understand my field of interest much better and able to enter the workforce equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills that abide with the law and ethic pertaining to that profession, in my case, nursing.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦it does open more doors and helps educate individuals who are interested to master their skills in the field of profession of their choice. It is simply vital to know what you are doing and so able to be functional in the society in a safe, effective and sufficient way. TAFE helps many to realise their dreams and increases the probability to go higher in their education, e.g. University level.

Submitted by

Alan Yap of Port Adelaide

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Michelle Casey, of Caulfield Nth make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 3161.

I have taught in government secondary colleges for over 15 years. TAFE is an important factor in keeping young people, who do not necessarily want an academic career, in training and education.

We need a well trained and skilled workforce. A combination of TAFE and school allows young people to gain the qualifications necessary to participate in, and contribute to, a prosperous Australia, now and in the future.

A female student of mine, who had become disconnected with school, was able to become re-engaged through a TAFE/School pathway.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means that those who live in these areas are still able to have the same opportunities as those in cities.

Private colleges are motivated by profit, and do not have the 'big picture' of Australia's future at their core. They 'cherry pick' courses and do not offer broad and/or diverse pathways.

Under the state coalition government, the TAFE sector has been savaged. Campuses have closed, schools have lost vital funding for co-ordinating pathways, and fees have risen. The result is that many young people are no longer able to access courses and the training necessary for their futures.

Our school can no longer afford to offer VET pathways due to cuts in funding.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need to keep young people engaged in education and training. We need to be able to offer them alternatives that are meaningful in their lives. They deserve a system that allows them to become productive and useful members of society.

Submitted by

Michelle Casey of Caulfield Nth

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Myra Gurney, of North Rocks make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I have spent the last 25 years of my working life teaching in both TAFE and now university. During that time, many of what were exceptionally worthwhile TAFE courses have been cut or watered down. Many of my friends who were excellent teachers and highly professional educators, have left the sector for lack of work.

The rationale for this 'downsizing' by governments of both persuasions, has been the need to provide competition and to outsource these to private providers. This has meant not only more expensive educational options for many students, but in my view as a teacher and curriculum developer, a poorer 'product'. There is no way that a student gets the same educational outcome from a course taught in two days that was previously taught in a semester in TAFE. RTOs are profit-making institutions. Their focus, unlike that of TAFE, is not primarily on good education but on economic rationalism.

On a personal level, both of my sons have attended TAFE in different areas. One is currently doing an apprenticeship and has previously completed other related courses. The other has completed four years of his apprenticeship and received excellent training for his trade. Had they been required to pay exorbitant fees to a private provider, I may not have been able to help them with their education. Education should be for all, not just those who can afford it.

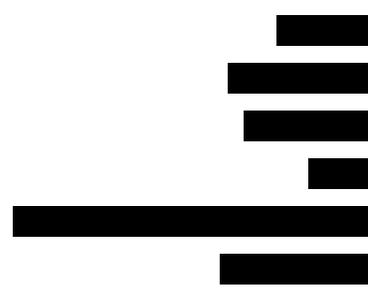
TAFE plays an important role in education, especially in the area of trades and as gateway to tertiary studies for those who may not have the confidence to enter university straight away or who have different learning styles. I believe it should be properly funded and supported if we are to have a properly skilled workforce in the future and one where everyone who wants it, can have access to a good education.

There are some things that it is essential that governments of all persuasions must support in the name of equity and so I encourage the committee to consider TAFE as an important component of an equitable and effective tertiary education sector.

Submitted by

Myra Gurney of North Rocks

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Guy Bell, of Forrestfield make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 35 years old and work as a process worker, in the postcode of 6058.

I'm a second class sheetmetal worker and plan on doing more study in the future to further my career and provide for my family.

Any Education including TAFE is always a plus for further experience in many fields that benefits the community and families!!!

myself, a step into the mining industry!!!in 1990 i did a 6 month TAFE course to work in the Mining industry. this course was a "Geological technician" course at Leederville TAFE in Perth W.A. If it wasn't for this course i wouldn't of been able to work in the mines which i did from 1991-1997.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means an opportunity to earn more

money to provide for my family

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we can't rely on our kids to all go to university. After year 12 Tafe would be a better option for those academics seeking trade skills... TAFE represents the trade sector...don't wipe it out!!!!!!

Submitted by

guy bell of forrestfield

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Kely bombara, of spearwood make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a electrician, in the postcode of 6163.

Trade studies at Tafe. Several adult education classes at Tafe both vocational and for personal enjoyment.

I believe many people find tafe useful for futhering their career prospects. I am also a strong advocate for highschool age kids getting vocational training with tafe studies and on the job experience

A good friend of my held manual labour positions for many years before studying computer technology at Tafe. He now has a great job with an internet provider

no

No knowledge

unsure

unsure

My Son is 13 and I would hate to think his options were minimised by Government cuts. He is disabled and unlikely to enter tertiary education

Submitted by

Kely bombara of spearwood

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Terry McMeekin, of Frankston make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retired teacher, in the postcode of 3199.

As a teacher I saw how important it was for my students to have access to the skills they could learn at TAFE. Many students began their tertiary training at TAFE and many used it to become qualified in trades. Cost and the variety of courses were very important as the students moved from school into the workforce.

TAFE provides both initial employment skills as well as certificates which enhance and upgrade original qualifications. People change jobs many time in their work life so the chance to upgrade skills is VIP!

I have done evening courses in wood work, french and computer programs.

TAFE has always been cheaper than University.

I have heard of the rip off colleges eg. Catering etc that have targeted foreign students.

Fewer staff and students

There is less choice, increased costs and fewer options for students.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because skills are so important in the future employability of young people and those who need to retrain after losing their jobs.

Submitted by

Terry McMeekin of Frankston

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Liam Whelan, of Plumpton make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a Telecommunications Technician, in the postcode of [REDACTED] 2761.

When I was young, I hated boarding school and couldn't wait to leave. At the time I couldn't see myself entering university, I had not the grades to start with, but I did not see an academic career as right for me either.

I managed to get an apprenticeship as a refrigeration mechanic through TAFE SA. I excelled at TAFE. Got an award, finished my trade and that set me up for life even though I no longer work in the same field.

I now work in a Telecommunications role. This again was born of two TAFE NSW courses I was undertaking in IT studies.

I am a bit older now and I would appreciate the opportunity to go back to TAFE and further my studies in telecommunication engineering, however, the constant funding

issues and scaling back of programs, means that the diploma course that I want is not available part time. Not only is it not available, but last time I checked, the full time roles are at campuses so remote, it is now not possible to consider this continued education option.

Skilled tradesmen and women are always required. If there is not the facility to train and promote the necessary skilled personnel in Australia, then what?

Education is fundamental. It is not an expense that government simply consider eroding every time there is a budget shortfall.

I would suggest that not living in a big area and being able to go to TAFE means a huge amount to someone who is motivated enough to learn the practical and theory components of a trade. If you have a trade, you will always have the skills to fall back on.

There appear to be a number of private colleges offering Telecommunications diploma courses now that would not have existed 5 years ago. Most have fees that make participation unrealistic.

There has been a direct impact in the telecommunications training courses offered, structure of the courses and the availability of course campuses and hours of study, so much so that I have all but given up now being able to undertake an advanced diploma in engineering.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because education

is not an expense. It is an investment in the future of a skilled workforce that benefits everyone.

Submitted by

Liam Whelan of Plumpton

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Simon Brown, of Lane Cove make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Environmental Officer, in the postcode of 2067.

After leaving school a little earlier than I later realised I should have, a number of TAFE certificates quickly got me on track in a Natural Resource Management career. TAFE education and courses is particularly important to my industry and I would have been lost without it.

With very practical based education and strong industry links with in the course and even down to the campus and teacher levels I think TAFE is integral to building on industry best practices with in a number of trades and industries I am involved in such as Natural Resource Management, Bush Regeneration and Horticulture

Like I was saying shortly after leaving school a little earlier than I should have, TAFE

helped me to get into the industry I wanted to be in. But I have also worked alongside many people who have, for one reason or another, had to change careers and they have quite easily, by completing appropriate TAFE qualifications, been able to make the change without major disruptions to their lives.

Living in a big city I have always had choices but I strongly believe everyone should have access to sound quality tertiary education and tuition no matter where they live.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because accessible quality tertiary education that is strongly linked with local industries and trades is essential for youth, workers, the community and better business.

Submitted by

Simon Brown of Lane Cove

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Julie Twomey, of Heidelberg make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 3084.

I went to TAFE after high school as I was unsure of uni, but wanted further study in more applied art studies. So completed an Adv Cert in Art and Design at Box Hill TAFE. It taught me to love art theory and practise. So after a great 2 years and finishing with a great collection of work, I got into Melbourne University.

TAFE taught me to love learning and go on to further study. I am now a secondary teacher of Art and VCAL.

TAFE teaches you to apply skills in a meaningful way. It gave my learning life. I now teach VCAL and impart my love of practical studies to my students.

Many of my VCAL students have lost their desired courses due to the cuts, others have had their fees increase by \$100's if not \$1000's. Out of reach of many families.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need students to love their learning. This for many students is through an applied method of learning; as offered by TAFEs. Industry needs this, students need this... the future of the workforce needs this.

Submitted by

Julie Twomey of Heidelberg

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Brendan Kelly, of Cannington make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

It is because of TAFE that I have my job as IT support. My employer specifically stated they were looking for TAFE graduates to be employed. The reason, I have since learned, is because TAFE is more hands on, which is what industry wants. It's all well and good to know why things happen, but if you have no idea how to make those things happen, then you're as good as useless to industry.

Had it not been for TAFE, it's plausible that I'd not be employed in my chosen field right now.

Submitted by
Brendan Kelly of Cannington

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Robyn Wellington, of Hillside make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

My son was attending Mount Alexander College in 2012, and enrolled in a VETiS Commercial Building and Construction course at RMIT for 2013; however, TAFE cuts put a stop to this before it even started. He was shattered, and disorientated, but thankfully he sought an alternative pathway to complete years 11 and 12 through SEDA, and hopes to enter the Building and Construction Industry in 2015.

He hopes to be a crane operator, and thankfully the CFMEU Crane Training Unit allowed him to spend a day with them to ensure this is what he really wanted, and provided valuable advice on the best way to enter the industry.

Hopefully by 2015, there will a change of government and / or TAFE funding restored.

Submitted by

Robyn Wellington of Hillside

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Leigh Ivin, of Tamworth make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2340.

I teach music and technology related subjects at TAFE. I believe the arts are as compelling and vital as anything else. To deprive students of the chance to gain serious education in the arts is deplorable. I feel the LNP almost views such pursuits as a threat.

for the less academic amongst us, this is a no brainer. With trades shortages and the outsourcing a skilled workers, why are we even considering cuts to TAFE?

Way too many school students I have taught at high school benefit immeasurably from TVET courses.

Tamworth TAFE has long and highly relevant history

Yes

Absolutely. Entire fine arts courses, with years of prep and work behind them were axed without regard.

Class reduction, staffing cuts and a diluted pool of opportunity for the community.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because not everybody can afford higher education. Too many students can rise out of obscurity and low-income given the right chances. TAFE is more than just a part of this.

Submitted by

Leigh Ivin of Tamworth

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Steven Kennewell, of Mt Burnett make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a Crane Operator, in the postcode of 3781.

As a young man I studied at TAFE to gain qualifications as a dogman and rigger, I found the quality of training to be of a very high level and it helped guide me on a safe and knowledgeable path in my chosen field of work.

during my working life I have held numerous training roles working for TAFE colleges, Private Registered Training Organisations and employers both in Australia and East Africa.

I have noted a decline in the quality of training being provided by RTO's, specifically privately owned businesses in Victoria, Western Australia and New South Wales.

These days the focus seems to be teaching the minimum required to pass assessments rather than a broad education on the specific field that gives students the skills and knowledge to do the job safely as well as passing the licence assessment.

Save the TAFE system as the training provided in these institutions is top quality and helps ensure safe work places.

TAFE colleges provide a broad education on the specific field that gives students the skills and knowledge to do the job safely as well as passing the licence assessment.

As a former TAFE instructor I have seen many young people come through, firstly apprehensive about working with heavy equipment and slinging complicated items for lifting with cranes.

Over the few weeks I have seen many of these people build and consolidate skills and gain knowledge required to safely determine the correct and safe way of lifting a variety of loads.

Training I have provided has also included operating cranes and forklifts, erecting scaffolding, identifying hazards and implanting appropriate control measures.

My time as an instructor has been a source of great pride as I have seen young people develop skills that will make them more employable and help ensure safety in their daily lives.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means i am able to develop my skills and further my education in order to better provide for myself and my family.

I believe private RTO's are focused on making money rather than providing quality training, something I believe many employers are also well aware of this.

The riggers licence these days is regarded in the industry as a learners permit rather than a certification that a person is competent to perform the required tasks without close and constant supervision.

The TAFE system is the place for people to go to learn the skills and gain the

knowledge, private RTO's are the place to go to get the licence without having to learn a lot.

With the growth of private RTO's TAFE colleges have been forced to reduced the quality of education in order to compete with the private RTO's who are more focused on "Milking the Cash Cow" rather than providing extensive and relevant training.

Government cuts to TAFE have severely impacted on the availability of quality training and will eventually see these institutions no longer able to compete

Save the TAFE system as proper education and training is what will ensure the safety of everyday Australians.

Submitted by

Steven Kennewell of Mt Burnett

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Jason Smith, of Morayfield make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a E&I Inspector, in the postcode of 4506.

I first studies a Certificate in Occupational Studies in the electrical trade and then went on to complete the Certificate in Electrical (Trade) at TAFE NSW.

TAFE played a very important role in my life as it provided substantial theory in my chosen profession which provided the base knowledge originally and then expanded theoretical knowledge of the practical skills I learned at work.

TAFE provides excellent training from experienced trainers who have no ambition 'just to hand out certificates', unlike some private RTO's.

The teacher's independence in TAFE allows them to train and assess fairly without the need to satisfy a student with a certificate they haven't really earned.

Before I purchased my first computer, I enrolled in TAFE to learn how to use one. They offered part time courses at night which allowed me to continue to work and provided me the enough knowledge and confidence to make my first computer purchase.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I am aware of qualifications being "awarded" to people who have not gained the necessary knowledge or experience to earn it. This has a huge effect on workplace quality and is bringing the quality of the Australian tradesman down to a frightening level.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need to ensure the quality of Australian workers. With all that is currently being outsourced to foreign shores at the moment, the skills of foreign workers is on the increase and the skills of Australian workers is on a rapid decline. When the foreign workforces demand payment increases for their newly acquired skills and their wages become unsustainable, corporations will want to return to the Australian workforce although it would quickly become evident that the local workforce no longer has the knowledge base to fill the requirements.

Please, I implore you, in a time of skills shortages, invest more in quality Australian training by increasing funding and opportunities in TAFE and increasing quality apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities. There is no fast, easy shortcut to this solution.

DONT ACT FOR YOUR NEXT VOTE, ACT FOR THE FUTURE PROSPERITY OF YOUR COUNTRY AND ITS COMMUNITY.

Submitted by

Jason Smith of Morayfield

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Gabriel Oriti, of Pallarenda make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Business coach, in the postcode of 4810.

I was a 23 year experienced Tafe teacher, across hospitality management, workplace training and assessing, business, retail, and RPL assessor and quality internal auditor. I was told my skills were surplus to requirements. I had dedicated my working career to be a teacher and trainer and opportunity builder for students. Now I am "surplus to requirements" I am still, 6 months later extremely disappointed with the management of the Barrier Reef Tafe and how they have treated students and obviously me as well

Tafe used to be able to provide students with opportunities to learn, practice, make use, and grow in self confidence before beginning or while enhancing careers

Refer above, I was about working with employers and making opportunities for

students to work in live external and internal live practical situations to apply their knowledge and skills into situations that helped them gain confidence

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Private colleges have proliferated, some with the onjective our credentialling with minimal effort others aiming to be partof the learning journey

Budget constraints have led to significant cuts at the Barrier Reef Tafe and consequently many staff being "offered" voluntary redundancies, with packages that wee difficult to resist but that had caveats for not accepting and financial consequences for t accepting.

Extremely badly, many programs being cancelled, training being made an expense and managers considering administrative budgets and not learning and educational experiences

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because those who may be left to carry on are less experienced, less able and less inclined to not replicate the less thanprofessionalpracticesof some training providers. I have gone from being a totally devoted advocate for Tafe to now feeling ambivalent toward it

Submitted by

Gabriel Oriti of Pallarenda

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Janet Srbic, of Labrador make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Pensioner, in the postcode of 4215.

I attended computer courses (6) sewing courses and lifestyle courses. Daughter trained for a year at TAFE and got a job whereas a uni degree didn't earn her a job. I loved the TAFE courses.

I think it's great adults to have that learning facility that is not quite as full on as uni. Great for apprenticeships and short courses which can open up new career choices. I'd like to see TAFE receive more money for more courses. I know I will attend

I completed TAFE courses recently but have been unable to find work. My daughter attended TAFE and that has worked better for her than a uni degree

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...I live on the gold coast

No. My experience with EIM training was very professional

Yes. Definitely. For quite a good while now.

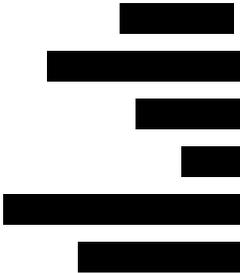
Yes. I recall having to go to a private training course because TAFE wasn't offering the course any more

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because I need it to learn and retrain. I am still hopeful of finding employment. If I can't do that I might like to do a sewing course. It's so nice to believe there are options open through which I can improve my circumstances or else there only a dead end and that's awful

Submitted by

Janet Srbic of Labrador

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Tim.Nash , of Maryville make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a auto electrician and graphic designer, in the postcode of 2293.

I did a apprenticeship in Auto Electrics in the 90's, I changed careers for a while and did a diploma of Graphic design and went on to gain a degree at university in visual communications. Graphic design is my passion, auto electrics pays my mortgage. Both I first studied at TAFE.

TAFE puts an emphasis on pragmatism, it is a philosophical outlook that is about a practical approach to knowledge. The workforce is a pragmatic place and TAFE supplies the essential skills that get people employed. It must be said however that not ALL knowledge and education is practical.

I have known plenty of people who came into TAFE from nothing and having no direction in life and have come out with a career and a means to pay off a house and form a meaningful life.

I live in Newcastle, it is not the only option, but a university degree is not always the way to get a employment either.

I got an RSA not long ago with a private collage, it was pretty disgraceful how they conducted their tests.

I know plenty of really great teachers have gotten laid off.

Loss of resources and loss of great teachers and practical supplies.

Without TAFE the one thing that I have loved passionately (besides my wife) - graphic design, would not have been in my life. I cannot imagine my life without this study and without the amazing teachers and experience I gained at TAFE. Some of the students I studied with are the people I love most in the world and I would not have met them without TAFE.

Submitted by

Tim.Nash of Maryville

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Julie Gerrish, of Lismore make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Public Servant, in the postcode of 2480.

I had no qualifications until I completed Social Welfare and Youth Work Studies at TAFE as a mature aged student. I was awarded the TAFE State medal. I worked in Child Protection and Juvenile Justice in a career spanning 20 years. Since retirement in 2008 I have worked on a relief basis and currently earn enough money to be off the Aged Pension.

Two of my children were able to enter University on the strength of their studies at TAFE. My son left school after Yr 10 and studied Computers at TAFE. On the strength of recommendations from his TAFE head of studies he gained entry to Sth Cross University to study I.T. even though he had no HSC and was not yet considered a "mature aged" student. He became very ill and disabled following brain surgery. He was able to return to studies at TAFE with the support of a TAFE funded support

worker, modified furniture and equipment arranged by the TAFE Disability co-ordinator. My daughter left school during Year 11 due to illness. She returned to study at TAFE to complete the Tertiary Preparation Course and gained entry to an Arts/Law degree at MacQuarie University. Another son left school after Year 10 and studied Art at TAFE. On the strength of his portfolio of work he gained admission to Sth Cross University in the Fine Arts degree.

TAFE teachers are generally people who have had experience in the industry related to their field of teaching. This brings a practical approach to learning. TAFE trained students are often sought after due to the practical nature of their training as well as the theoretical basis on which to base their practice.

I was an early school leaver, aged 14. I brought up a family of four children. Through my TAFE studies as a mature-aged student I was successful in gaining employment in my field of interest. At age 68, due to my experience, I am still sought after by former employers to back-fill positions when staff are on leave.

I work with disadvantaged youth, many of whom do not manage mainstream schooling well. Some clients have secured placements at TAFE to complete their Year 10 equivalent studies and gone on to study further courses at TAFE. Placements are competitive and I am concerned that funding cuts will lead to less available places for this group of young people who require the special support afforded to students at TAFE. They will be forced into an endless round of "short courses", if any exist locally, to meet requirements of Centrelink to maintain their meagre income. Many will remain unemployed.

TAFE is the people's education. It has a tradition of providing a broad range of courses to meet the needs of a diverse community. I urge the committee to support a well-funded TAFE sector to continue to make available the opportunities and rich educational experiences otherwise denied many of our community.

Submitted by

Julie Gerrish of Lismore

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Sandra Betts, of Belgrave make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Civil Celebrant, in the postcode of 3160.

My daughter is seeking to become a Veterinary Nurse. This is a difficult job to get into as a Traineeship requires first finding 15 hours/week work with a Vet. Then, and only then can she enroll to study the CertIV in Veterinary Nursing at TAFE.

The TAFE course was subsidized by Federal and State Governments but in Victoria the State Government contribution has been removed, so almost no places are being offered by Vets. I have seen 2 advertisements on specialist web sites only this year.

The only other option is to gain one of a very few (20) plces offered by a Private Ed Group who charge \$20,000 for the 2 year course.

Training trades and Vet nurses, etc - all necessary parts of the workforce.

My daughter is taking on a Short Course at Box Hill TAFE as a Preliminary step to gaining the interest of a potential employer for a traineeship. Although it costs \$600 for only 8 x 3hr sessions it will give her more knowledge and show that she is committed to getting into her chosen field of work.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Private Colleges are a scam. I have worked in them (esp. Australian College of Natural Medicine) delivering components of Bachelor Degree Courses.

I was the only staff member with University experience so they had me do the Course Requirements first, as an example for others to follow. None of the other lecturers had University experience as educators and many did not have degrees them selves (natural Medicine lecturers, Homeopathy lecturers, etc).

I had been teaching at the first University Courses in Natural Medicine in Australia (at Southern Cross University) and was appalled at the examination standards of most other lecturers. They were NOT applying University standards but were selling a Bachelor Degree.

The same lack of professionalism has been true of 'private' providers of First Aid Training I have experienced - low standards applied to students (paying for the course tends to pay for a pass and the Institutions are reluctant to fail under-performing students).

Lilydale Campus closed. Staff cutbacks at many sites.

The cuts have been applied in a vicious and unintelligent manner. No thought as to impact and control of impacts was seriously entertained.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need the workers they train and need to avoid under supply of tradespeople and other skills in the future. Also our young people need skills to get jobs.

Apprenticeships and traineeships need support. Employers need to have support to take on unskilled juniors while they learn the trades and train in work skills needed to fill fully trained roles in the future

Submitted by

Sandra Betts of Belgrave

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Veronica Ryan, of Grafton make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a TAFE Teacher, in the postcode of 2460.

TAFE plays a huge role in the Grafton community. It is a place where locals, especially those who may be disadvantaged, unemployed or disabled can feel comfortable and safe while learning new skills to help improve their lives.

TAFE provides vital skills and, often even more important, instils confidence in its students to assist them in achieving their goals. TAFE offers learners training and support to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to compete in the modern workforce.

Many of the students we see in Grafton TAFE are referred from JSA that are unable to find employment for them due to a lack of training and skills employers require. Grafton

TAFE, like TAFEs country wide, provide the training, motivation and encouragement that has seen many return to workforce after long periods of unemployment.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means everything to the local community of Grafton. It is such a welcoming, supportive environment. The loss of such an institution would be devastating to the area as it is much more than an exceptional educational facility, it is a place where community members can connect, share and learn. TAFE needs more funding and support from government not less.

Other RTOs cannot hope to offer students the same level of support nor the same caring environment as TAFE. Not to mention the high level of experience and quality teaching that has grown from numerous years of service to the community. TAFE is unique in its ability to provide high quality training.

The job of teachers has never been harder and the pressure we are under is immense. We love what we do, we care for our communities and are always willing to go the extra mile for our students but recent cost cutting has seen valuable courses cut, staff numbers reduced and precious resources lost.

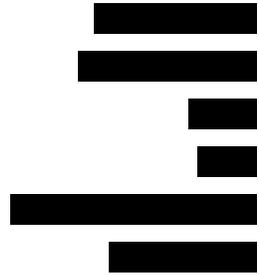
I am scared that due to job cuts and a push for online training over face to face, those in our community who are most in need, and who have no way of accessing or completing online courses unassisted, will never receive the training they could once get from TAFE. They will be destined to live without the opportunity to be trained well and to gain employment.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE is not just an RTO it is for many the life blood of the community, a refuge in which to grow, develop and nurture our citizens. Please care for TAFE today and into the future.

Submitted by

Veronica Ryan of Grafton

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Deidre Pinder, of Bondi make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Project Officer, in the postcode of 2150.

I have studied at TAFE several times. Courses have included certificates in training and IT and a Diploma in Human Resource Management. I plan to undertake further study at TAFE including a Certificate III or IV in Fitness and also disability studies.

It is important for workers to have access to good quality and affordable training institutions such as TAFE so that they can continue to develop their skills to remain competitive for work. This is particularly important for disadvantaged workers such as those with disabilities, mature aged and those who have been out of the workforce for a period of time ie sole parents, carers. But it's not just about remaining competitive it's also about having the skills to progress at work into higher better paid positions. Further study also means that employers benefit from better skilled workers. So

everyone wins!!!

About 11-12 years ago I lost a job I really loved due to bullying and was depressed. I found part time work however decided to undertake further studies at TAFE feeling it would help me get me back on my feet more quickly and gain another job I would love. I had studied at TAFE in the late 90's and had enjoyed every minute of it making many friends and loving the study. The teachers were great too. Always willing to help and advise when we needed it. It was like visiting friends and family every time I attended. So I also felt that being in that environment would be good for me. I did return and it was fun and helped my mental health. However I also gained further qualifications which lead to temporary work in a job I loved and 8 years later when that job came up but this time permanently I got it. If I hadn't of studied at TAFE 11 years ago I would not be in the job I am in today.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes it seems the private colleges do "quick" and "nasty" courses where students cram but don't really learn anything. Doing a couple of nights pw over a year means one really does learn thoroughly. Private colleges seem to have poor surroundings and equipment and teachers that can't be committed as they are casual and need to look at moving on for their own financial security. Secure jobs like at TAFE means that teachers can commit to the job and develop which students and employers benefit from.

Unfortunately I haven't been to TAFE for a few years so can't comment. But I highly support TAFE and feel it should be well funded and remain a leading education provider that can be responsive to workforce needs.

I have noticed that new courses aren't being offered. For example I'd like to upgrade my cert IV in workplace assessment and training to a cert IV in workplace training and assessment - however they do not offer this course.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€not everything should be handed over to a profit driven private sector but should remain in expert govt hands. Government can and should play a large role in education and social services. TAFE is highly experienced and it is also local and offers courses in the evening so one can continue to work.

Submitted by

Deidre Pinder of Bondi

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Clare Heath, of Holloways Beach make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a social worker, in the postcode of 4870.

TAFE is the most amazing place.

It's where I went at night to learn how to type back in 1979 and everyday at work or home, I'm so grateful for that evening course.

TAFE is where I went as a 25 year old to do the Tertiary Preparation Certificate as I only went to Year 10 in 1978 and had dreams of going to University and becoming a social worker.

TAFE is where I went to dabble in my creative side and study Ceramics.

TAFE is where my daughter wants to go after she finishes school to study, as she does not have the desire to go to University.

TAFE changed my life and gave me the confidence to aim higher. I met some wonderful teachers at TAFE who were inspiring and really brought out the best in me.

Best of all TAFE gave me the confidence to believe in myself. I went from not having much confidence regarding my academic abilities after leaving school in Year 10, to going on to University as a mature age student - a major achievement and milestone in my life.

Not everyone is suited to learning in the school environment, that's why TAFE is so important, to give everyone a chance. TAFE is a real egalitarian place. It's a place that is open to everyone.

TAFE always seems to offer the best courses that will equip people with the skills they need right now. TAFE is an education leader.

I would not be where I am now with out TAFE.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...you don't miss out on opportunities to better yourself and make a future for yourself. It means you can have the chance to keep unemployment at bay.

Not personally, although they are very expensive and not everyone can have access to them.

Fees are increasing which means it is not as affordable as it used to be for everyone. Some of the courses have been cut which is disappointing.

It's harder to get into courses as there are less places and less choices for people.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦with out TAFE people will fall through the cracks into unemployment, depression, homelessness etc.

Submitted by

Clare Heath of Holloways Beach

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Margaret Galbraith, of Flagstaff Hill make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [redacted] years old and work as a Library Officer, in the postcode of 5001.

I had a career change in 1998 and fulfilled a long- time dream of being able to complete a Diploma in Library Studies at Adelaide TAFE. After a 12 year gap from the work force to have 2 children I returned that year to a life changing career working at Barr Smith Library University of Adelaide. I had previously worked in secretarial positions but always wanted to work in a library.

I feel TAFE better equips you for the workforce as opposed to some university courses as it is more hands on. My son did the Diploma in Accounting and us now doing the degree at Flinders. He has been told while at job recruitment sessions his TAFE

training as well as his Degree should help his job prospects and this is from one of the big 4 finance companies here.

I did not know about the Library Technician course as it was not advertised but teacher/librarian at my children's primary school suggested I try the course as I had volunteered at the school library for 9 years. I could not afford university as could I not get HELP fees as only a permanent resident but may take out citizenship in the next couple of years.

Cuts years ago meant the library studies were amalgamated with IT at Adelaide which took away the personalised touch we had before when they had their own unit. When I graduated my Cert IV we had a wonderful graduation ceremony. When I got my Diploma the teachers organised a dinner themselves for me as there was no formal ceremony due to cut backs. I felt after all the hard work this was very poor on the TAFE part but totally out of the teacher's control then with lack of funds from Government.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because there are so many young and mature students who may not make the grade for university but still want to do well and improve life choices. My son went to university when he left school and hated it. I feel it was too big a shock for him. A year later he went to TAFE and loved the smaller class room style and the teacher contact. He said it helped him mature and then was ready after 2 years at TAFE to go onto university and is currently doing well.

Submitted by

Margaret Galbraith of Flagstaff Hill

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Irene Buckler, of Glenwood make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a writer, in the postcode of 2768.

I studied accountancy at TAFE ages ago and then computer programming . My brother in law studied engineering at TAFE and my son did a certificate 4 on youth work at TAFE as a prelude to entering the police force.

TAFE is ideally positioned to fill the skills-gaps that (apparently) plague our workforce, but it seems to me that since I and my brother-in-law studied accountancy (me), computer programming (me) and engineering (him) that such middle level courses are no longer offered at TAFE. Why is that?

TAFE enabled one of my sons to upgrade his qualifications to meet the entry level requirements for his chosen career in policing.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means that young people do not need to leave regional areas to access the training they need to get employment in skilled areas of work.

I am familiar with this problem through well-publicized cases (shonky colleges exploiting overseas students, for example) appearing in the print media.

My local TAFEs are still operating, but I am aware of closures in other areas - how can that be when we are always told Australia needs skilled workers? What I have noticed is that a new (Anglican, I think) training provider has built a brand new training facility in my local area. I would like to know who is funding this facility, a duplication of existing local TAFE resources? I hope it's not the tax payer.

I have no experience of this, but I am sure it is happening :) Also, I am unhappy with the mooted imposition of HECs type fees on TAFE students.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because Australia needs a local, properly trained, skilled workforce.

Submitted by

Irene Buckler of Glenwood

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, daryl stirrat, of ashtonfield make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a fitter, in the postcode of 2323.

I have attended a number of T.A.F.E. campuses, completing trade courses, and post trade qualifications.

These qualifications have enabled me to gain successful employment over the past 40 years.

T.A.F.E. has enabled myself and a large number of other Australians to better themselves and help this country to move ahead economically, both nationally and internationally.

Many people in our area have retrained themselves and gained new qualifications when local manufacturing industries closed. By using the services and facilities that

T.A.F.E. supplies, and were able to gain new employment in other fields of expertise.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means. That we can train our young people so that they can better themselves and assist our society to move forward.

there has been a downgrading of the trade skills in this country over the last 40 years. The course syllabus has been downgraded and shortened to meet the need for tradespeople, and the employers.

Also the Howard government created private colleges and training institutions to meet the shortage. But has only succeeded in cutting funding to TAFE and reducing the effectiveness of the organisation.

yes, the cost of the courses has jumped to a point where it limits the ability of people to be able to train themselves and improve their life.

as above, increased costs, cutting teachers, and courses. A very negative outcome.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it has a knock on effect to manufacturing and infrastructure, as well as improving people's lives, and the Australian economy.

Submitted by

daryl stirrat of ashtonfield

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Joan Lockwood, of Dinmore make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retired translator, in the postcode of 4303.

My son is an apprentice electrician and studies at TAFE

TAFE gives practical and other skills to people heading for useful work.

Actually, it gives a first chance to people. My son is using his apprenticeship as a career change, so I suppose it counts as a second chance.

No

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because all people, especially young people, need every chance available to be trained to join the workforce in a career position.

Submitted by

Joan Lockwood of Dinmore

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Jacqui Moon, of Miranda make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a food, beverage and functions supervisor, in the postcode of 2000.

I attended Loftus TAFE doing an Advanced Diploma in Hospitality, following on from doing hospitality at high school.

My teachers at TAFE were very supportive and made it possible for me to go straight into a job as a trainee manager in a large hotel chain after finishing my course.

The course I did really prepared me for a job in my chosen field.

Sadly, now the hospitality course I did has been discontinued at my local TAFE college - that is so unfair!

The courses are affordable, the course I did at TAFE would have cost \$30,000 + if I had done it at a private college - my parents couldn't afford that - and I couldn't have

afforded the fees. Going to TAFE gave me the opportunity to pursue the career I wanted.

I had a friend who didn't really fit into school, so she left school and did her HSC at TAFE.

Courses have been cut from the TAFE I attend, there just aren't the number or variety of courses anymore.

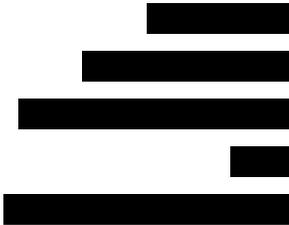
I am one of the lucky people who went through TAFE, I had left by the time the cuts started.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because if I hadn't gone to TAFE I wouldn't have been able to get the job I have now - I have already been able to get a promotion in my job - TAFE made me confident enough to go for the job I wanted.

Submitted by

Jacqui Moon of Miranda

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Edith Steele, of Holland Park, Brisbane make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher for adult migrants, in the postcode of 4121.

I teach English to adult migrants who through their TAFE studies are prepared to enter mainstream VET courses or even begin or extend their university studies or achieve entry level into the work force.

These English courses are their life line into further studies and employment.

Through their TAFE studies our students develop their language skills, work skills, strengthen their self esteem, learn about the Australian culture to become valuable members of our work force.

Many come already highly qualified and skilled and need TAFE as the stepping stone into the workplace.

TAFE is the biggest and most successful provider of English studies to adult migrants and the TAFE setting is an ideal stepping stone to employment, to study such as aged care, hospitality, IT and from there to university for already qualified doctors, nurses etc.

Our migrants and refugees usually come from impoverished backgrounds and a local TAFE make travelling expenses viable.

Students have already voted with their feet returning back to TAFE after experiencing an RTO (Registered Training Organisation) in Coorparoo, Brisbane that consisted of a hall instead of classrooms had no computer and no course program. This is one of several unsatisfactory RTOs in Brisbane

Due to budget cuts resulting in teaching job losses, overworked administration staff as those who left were not replaced as well as increased class sizes.

Due to the government's significant TAFE cuts, students have had to discontinue studies or work full time to pay their fees and consequently were unable to concentrate in class and failed their course. This led to loss of self esteem and depression.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we lose highly skilled and qualified migrants to driving taxis, cleaning jobs and kitchen work. This affects their health and burdens health services. It also adds to diversity in our society when a group of valuable people are not supported and helped to integrate into our Australian society.

Submitted by

Edith Steele of Holland Park, Brisbane

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Luke Hays, of Doubleview make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Public servant, in the postcode of 6004.

TAFE represents an important part of the education system, and a vital option for all people, but especially young people, seeking to improve their skills.

The idea that in a modern economy and society we can make decisions to reduce educational opportunities for citizens and still expect to maintain or improve our performance has been proven false.

It is without question that the investment in education pays for itself multiple times in the future.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because an investment in the education of Australians, particularly younger Australians, is one that will pay for itself multiple times in the future.

Submitted by

Luke Hays of Doubleview

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Larissa Brady, of Canadian make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a clinical coder, in the postcode of 3350.

I have completed two tafe courses since I left high school. The first one spurred me back to university, where I eventually went on to honours level. The second TAFE course provided me with very useful and transferable skills, which have assisted me in various positions I have held. I am positive that I would not be in the career I'm in now if I had not undertaken TAFE training.

From my experience, TAFE helps develop workplace relevant skills that improve employability and encourage ongoing personal improvement.

Although I went straight from VCE to Uni, I was not ready for the changes involved (leaving home and friends to go to Melbourne from Ballarat) and ended up dropping

out after the first year. Instead I enrolled in TAFE the following year and completed a two year course. This eventually lead me back to Uni and I was successful the second time around.

Although Ballarat has two universities, TAFE offers different options and is often more accessible to people for many different reasons. TAFE can also, as in my case, act as a pathway to Uni if going directly from secondary education hasn't been an option or hasn't worked out initially.

I haven't had personal experience but am aware of some very concerning issues in that regard.

Several years ago, during another round of cuts, my brother lost his relatively new job as a TAFE teacher in panel beating, which lead to Ballarat panel beating apprentices being expected to travel to Melbourne to complete their course component. This round of cuts is even more extensive still and I expect the impact on both staff, with job losses, and to students, who may not be able to travel to Melbourne for their courses, will be even more detrimental.

I have not been studying at TAFE during this current round of cuts so can't personally comment on the hardships caused, although I am sure they are great.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE is one of the greatest pathways out of both poverty and ignorance and helps people off welfare or low paying jobs and into further education and better employment options.

Submitted by

Larissa Brady of Canadian

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Gary Heard, of West Melbourne make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

A strong TAFE system is not only fundamental to the wellbeing of our society, it remains an important ingredient in developing work skills for the economy. The TAFE systems offers training and education for those whose approach is more practical than academic, providing essential skills and understandings for many who would otherwise fall through the cracks of our educations system.

Since the demise of technical schools in Victoria, many students have been significantly disadvantaged, not having a place to develop dedicated practical skills, or, more fundamentally, to test themselves in a range of practical learning areas. The private sector has a demonstrated inability to fill this gap, given the larger capital costs associated with trade-associated learning.

The federal government's commitment to the TAFE system needs to be strengthened, together with a policy approach which encourages state governments to invest in this aspect of education, rather than cutting back.

Given the different learning rates and developments of young people, a strong, government supported and owned TAFE system is essential.

Submitted by

Gary Heard of West Melbourne

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Charmaine Trigg, of Mount Druitt make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Bookkeeper, in the postcode of 2760.

Without TAFE I would not have been able to pursue my career as a bookkeeper/BAS agent

It gives you a hands on approach to the workforce with lecturers being real people with real life skills not just teaching you by rope learning

TAFE has allowed me to pursue study at my own pace without the stigma of being a disabled person

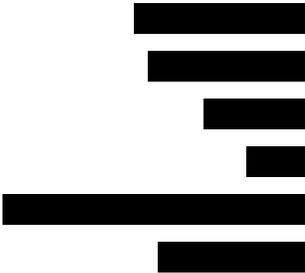
Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦!

Submitted by

Charmaine Trigg of Mount Druitt

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, patricia o'brien, of Mosman make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 65 years old and work as a retiree, in the postcode of 2088.

TAFE is essential a part of the Australian educational system and should be supported as such.

As above save TAFE & definitely expand on TAFE possibilities.

So many of us used to supervise examinations at TAFE around Sydney and they are so essential to the apprentice system and also as a supportive educational tool and environment for folk of all dispositions./ages /cultures/

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means... communication. contact. opportunity to network. avenues for employers and apprentices workers to liaise art

exhibition.s galleries music venue and expressions of art interest. commuunication
PLUS PLUS PLUS a focal centre for the region..

no idea

yes closing buildings as at Seaforth in the past & thus not staffed or supported.so
wasting resources. Suggest put them under the care of an org which does/can care
re the public educÃ tion system and supervise the use of space for other orgs to use
these community buildings as well.

state govt shows again it is out of touch with real voters need. by all it's cuts.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€ it is an
obvious essential lynchpin for our Aussies to speak with others , to learn trades of
use. to practice under supervision. and should be supported by govt. more widely not
have cutback and no head plan of what purpose they serve..

Submitted by

patricia o'brien of Mosman

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Annemarie Freeman, of Molendinar make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a administration officer, in the postcode of 4217.

Tafe has played a part in the life of both my children. My son studied a diploma of accounting. My daughter is in year 11 and thanks to tafe she will have several qualifications when she completes year 12. University is not for everyone and tafe offers my daughter an alternative pathway to her chosen career nursing.

Tafe provides skills that can be gained in a relatively short period of time. Many of the courses offered give our young people the skills and confidence to start out in the workforce and start a career in their chosen field.

The course that my daughter is doing well lead to a nursing degree when she wouldn't have that opportunity if she was made to achieve the necessary results through

mainstream school.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

No

My daughter is also doing a Cert III in childrens services. The fees were increased at the last minute

The increase in these fees may mean that some people may not be able to afford to gain qualifications. With our aging population we need to offer every opportunity to or youth to ensure they are job ready.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is vital that our most vulnerable people have equal access to further education. This will ensure that more people have the skills they need to be productive and independent members of society.

Submitted by

Annemarie Freeman of Molendinar

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Stephen Donaldson, of Green valley make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Fitter, in the postcode of 2170.

By 17 years old , both my parents had passed away. I started work in a factory as a process worker. Then my boss told me of a company that had apprenticeships going , so I took an apprenticeship at TAFE and am still working Over thirty years later. We have 3 Forster kids and I hope to be sending them to TAFE aswell.

I am proof of that!

I don't know how life would have gone without TAFE.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

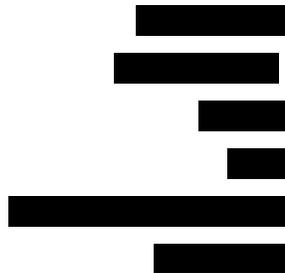
Yes , certain training institutes just seem to rip young people off.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€”TAFE is the stepping stone into the real world for young people. Especially the ones that build Australia.

Submitted by

Stephen Donaldson of Green valley

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Andrew King, of Carrum make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Communications Technician, in the postcode of 3197.

I have been a part of the TAFE system ever since joining the workforce. I've completed 2x apprenticeships in carpentry & joinery and telecommunications. since certificate 3 in both respective fields I have gone on to complete further certificates related to the telecommunications industry. The TAFE system has provided me with life long skills and qualifications that were not offered in other educational institutions such as university. TAFE provides an avenue of tertiary education not only to young people but to people looking to upskill or change careers in order to better their quality of life and further contribute to Australian society in a freater sense. The value of courses provided by the Australian TAFE system is second to none and considering we are now in a position where not only are we facing a skills shortage. Particularly in my chosen industry of telecommunications, we also have a rapidly aging workforce.

TAFE contributes significantly to the Australian workforce and society as a whole. Traditionally TAFE's have provided licensed trades such as plumbing and electrical with courses that provide a skill level unmatched by trades people all over the globe. The high quality of Australian trades standards has in recent years seen a great demand for Australian trades people particularly in the United Kingdom and Europe. TAFE affords people skills and abilities not offered elsewhere and for young people entering the workforce it gives them a level of confidence that makes them more valuable to a prospective employer.

As a young man leaving school I remember feeling overwhelmed by the pressure of wanting to be in a job that was skilled and valued. I entered the construction industry at the age of 18 and have been in the trade sector since then. Had I not had the opportunity to attend TAFE and complete certificates in my respective fields I honestly can not say how different my life would be today. TAFE provides people with all kinds of opportunities that other educational institutions have not and still do not offer. If the TAFE sector can no longer offer people the courses traditionally provided by the TAFE system then what is to become of skilled workers in the Australian workforce. Although it may be attractive for large companies to employ foreign workers at a lower rate of pay to Australian workers. That can not be sustained as a long term practice if more Australian citizens are unable to gain long term employment especially if they are skilled workers. Also in terms of people who are required to work to Australian standards and industry codes which are taught in the TAFE system.

I don't live in a regional area but I would argue that for young people living in a regional area or people looking to upskill the TAFE system can only be seen as a valued means of education.

In 2007 I did a telecommunications course provided by a private educational provider.

It was held in a function room at a 3 star hotel with the absolute bare minimum of materials and insufficient documentation and technical information. Several attendees left the course and remarked at how sub-standard and uninspired the course was. It was not anything that could be considered a solution to tertiary or further education.

I have spoken to the electrical engineering department at my local TAFE. They in no uncertain terms expressed grave concern at the budget cuts and direction the TAFE system seems to be headed.

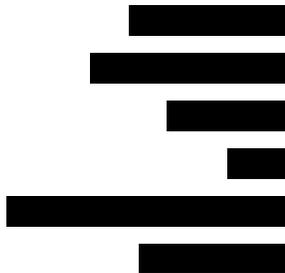
It is undeniable that the Victorian state governments sever cuts to the TAFE system have had an adverse effect on people. There is insurmountable evidence to demonstrate that the cuts have left many people unable to find placements in their respective fields or are not receiving a standard of education expected in order to work to Australian standards. These standards are what set Australian workers apart from the rest of the world and the reason that skilled Australian workers are so highly regarded.

The future of Australia and the quality of life that we hold so dear is directly related to our ability to be able to provide the skills and service required to keep developing our industries and infrastructure. The current economic instability seen in Europe and the United States and youth unemployment is a direct effect of a lack of investment in skills. Australia more than ever will need a skilled workforce in order to prosper in to the technological future. Investment in TAFE should be seen as a logical, sound and necessary investment in the future of all Australians.

Submitted by

Andrew King of Carrum

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Adam Tucker, of Moranbah make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a boilermaker, in the postcode of 4744.

I am a father of 2 girls. I started doing a prevocational metal fabrication and welding course (boiler making) at the Mackay tafe. The course gave me the experience and knowledge to begin learning my trade. A couple of months into my provocation course I started work experience which is sorted through tafe and after two weeks on the job i gained an apprenticeship. This I believe was solely because tafe gave the experience and confidence to get out and have a go. I plan on continuing my studies through tafe to gain another trade as a fitter.

Tafe teaches you what you what to expect on the job.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦being unable to extend my studies will greatly impact on my ability to expand my knowledge and Increase the chances of gaining further employment in a different field. It is my strong opinion that tafe is the doorway for people to gain experience and gain employment in their desired field.

Submitted by

Adam Tucker of Moranbah

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Melanie Ledgett, of Coomba Bay make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a environmental consultant, in the postcode of 2428.

After doing a science degree I went to TAFE to do a bush regeneration certificate which meant I had practical skills to go with my theory from uni. I had a job before I finished the course. I returned to TAFE several years later as a part time TAFE teacher in my field of bush regeneration, using my uni experience to back up my practical field work. This hands on learning is extremely valuable and has allowed me to succeed in my work as a bush regenerator and environmental consultant. A great combination of practical and theory.

It provides an opportunity for hands on learning like no other institute.

I found it hard to gain employment when I finished uni as I didn't have any real practical

skills. After completing my tafe course I was far more employable!

I now live outside of Sydney, on the mid north coast, and am dissappointed that there are no courses offered up here any more in my field. I would love to teach up here! I think Tafe is extremely important in regional areas as there are less tertiary training opportunities.

no, but I've not been looking!

Yes, less courses on offer. Even when I was a teacher, 10 years ago, there were heaps of cuts to staffing, a casualisation of the teaching staff was overtaking. I participated in many strikes at the time.

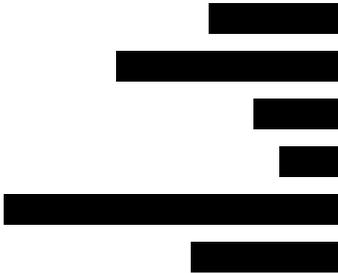
most of my experience is from several years ago (see above answers)

Tafe is a very important training institute for all fileds. It should remain low cost to students otherwise we will have even less skilled workers. It should not be up to the private sector to have to train their staff at their cost. It is already hard enough to employ staff when you are a small business, which is where alot of apprentices and practical workers such as landscapers and hairdressers, start out.

Submitted by

Melanie Ledgett of Coomba Bay

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Mike Harris, of Buccan make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 41 years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 4114.

I attended TAFE at age 19 or so. This helped me to get into Teaching upon leaving the Army in 1976.

I have taught at many TAFE colleges in QLD and now I am teaching Apprentices in a Trade Training centre

It teaches people who are at their maximum learning potential (18 to 25 Years)

I left school in year 9 but now I have post grad qualifications

TAFE taught me how to learn, and my subsequent hard work at 4 universities gave me knowledge and skills.

Had I not been able to go to TAFE then I am sure that I would be in a completely different circumstance today

I taught at an Aboriginal community in Far North Qld and taught Maths at Cairns TAFE. There were many nights that I drove students to and from TAFE. It was the only chance that some of these young adults ever had at post compulsory education

very much so. I had a student asking for RPL in communication because he had passed at a local trade run college. (the poor kid could not even write his name!)

Yip... It's almost closed down

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because I have taught hundreds of TAFE students over many years. The pride in achievement displayed by those who worked hard needs to be discussed. You see they came out of the TAFE system more confident, skillful, knowledgeable and so on. Surely this translates into better Australians, better workers, better neighbors, better parents and on and on.

In a civilised country with extremely high taxes. I think that I could expect a tertiary education system that caters for those who, for whatever reason, could not attend a university.

I am most happy to sit and talk about this to anyone who will listen

cheers

Mike

Submitted by

mike harris of buccan

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Caroline Deane, of Carrara make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 4211.

I am a TAFE teacher and have been for 14 years. It is a fantastic environment of multi studies where students from every demographic and nationality mingle and learn not only from their teachers but also from their peers. It is accessible and friendly and huge source of knowledge.

It is practical, hands on and the teachers are very experienced in their field.

The AMEP and LLNP programs are vital to settling refugees and migrants. These are supportive, nurturing courses with teachers who have specialist understanding of what people from foreign countries need to learn to settle and be employed in Australia.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Underqualified and inexperienced teachers are employed by private colleges because their salaries are lower.

Yes, teachers now have to devote more and more hours to tasks formerly done by administration, this takes away from their preparation and teaching time.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦!

Submitted by

Caroline Deane of Carrara

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, vivienne edwards, of carine make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a SLEEP SCIENTIST/RN, in the postcode of 6020.

My daughter has TAFE qualifications which were arranged and paid, for by the establishments she worked for - SGIO & PERTH DENTAL UWA.

It has helped her enormously,now gone onto further studies at Curtin University.

See above.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I imagine TAFES in country areas should be given extra funding as people living in regional W.A. go without so much already.

I work in a major hospital and any of the privatised areas such as cleaning, food etc., is well below acceptable standards.

In my situation, longer waiting lists for patients, less education for staff, cheaper products for patient care which takes staff longer to access and use, then much of it is hopeless thus costing more than the original better products, you name it - cheaper means less value.

At the Dental Hospital less paid students (dental assisting) if any are allowed, previously before Barnett Government about five students admitted about two yearly.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is vital to ensure a proper regulated education is available to all those who need it.

Submitted by

vivienne edwards of carine

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Mary Lou Simpson, of Chelmer make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I helped establish the Adult Tertiary Preparation course at Southbank TAFE, Brisbane. This course was designed to help people who did not finish high school, but who wanted to do so later. My 14 years as teacher and co-ordinator showed me how invaluable this course was to help people improve their education and their lives. It proved to me that not everyone is ready for education in their teens. Despite having to continually fight for our existence, we helped hundreds of people re-direct their lives for the better. TAFE is indispensable. It is an unwise government that does not provide these 2nd chance opportunities for people whose education has been curtailed by health, family difficulties, pregnancy, drugs, or just choice. Please support TAFE.

Submitted by
Mary Lou Simpson of Chelmer
Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Merv Mahon, of CARDIFF HEIGHTS NSW make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a , in the postcode of 2285.

Tafe was invaluable to me as I studied for my trade qualifications. Too many skills are being lost because our trade related industries are closing down and the skilled work is being carried out overseas. Somehow we have to maintain the skills during this period of demand for relatively unskilled workers in the hope that one day Australia will become a nation where our skills can produce our prosperity once again.

My unskilled parents survived by sheer hard but not very rewarding labour, University was out of the question for me. Tafe gave me the opportunity to secure those higher

education qualifications and to earn a respectable living for my own family.

Cutting the funding for Tafe would be a disastrous act and would be the action of a person or group that was totally unaware of the value of this unique institution.

Immigrants to Australia from far richer countries than ours have remarked, "We have nothing like Tafe at home."

No

Too old to notice these things

unknown

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because Australia needs to maintain its level of skills as we did in the past instead of being a workforce that is suitable for manual labour only.

Submitted by

Merv Mahon of CARDIFF HEIGHTS NSW

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Rae Litting, of Beecroft make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I have recently completed the Certificates III and IV in Conservation and Land Care at Ryde TAFE. I undertook these courses after being made redundant from a public service job. I am currently working as a bush regenerator.

Having previously completed a degree and two post graduate diplomas I thought that a certificate course at TAFE would be easy. I was wrong. The standard was high, and class mates who had previously studied at university were having to retake tests! A student with higher qualifications remarked that only at TAFE did he finally learn something useful.

Skimping on practical education, and then having to bring in guest workers to provide needed skills, will not make us the Clever Country.

Submitted by

Rae Litting of Beecroft

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Anthony Dwyer, of Marrickville make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Manager, in the postcode of 2204.

When I was about 40 I desperately needed a change of direction and decided to study graphic design. Uni was too expensive and would have taken too long so I studied at Enmore Design Centre. TAFE gives you the hands on training that Uni does not. It made me ready for the workforce after a mere 2 years of study. About 2 years after finishing at TAFE I was in a full time position and I am now (15 years later) a manager at that same workplace earning over \$100k a year. This is what TAFE did for me.

TAFE is a hands-on training program that produces work-ready graduates. It may not have the "prestige" of University but it produces well qualified, work-ready graduates. In my current position I regularly hire new staff and they almost invariably come from the TAFE system (especially Hornsby TAFE) because they are highly trained and

ready to start without any further training. I have also hired some uni graduates and in general they do not have anywhere near the work-readiness that the TAFE graduates do.

I was in my late 30s and was working as a barman and had no real qualifications and no future. TAFE gave me a second chance and I now have a great job earning over \$100k a year. If not for TAFE and a tiny bit of luck I would still probably be on less than \$40k.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it produces work-ready graduates in a short space of time. It gave me a second chance at a decent career and without it my life would be substantially poorer than it is now. I owe everything I have to my decision to study at TAFE.

Submitted by

Anthony Dwyer of Marrickville

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, tony ameneiro, of Mittagong make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a artist, in the postcode of 2575.

I was an art teacher at TAFE until the introduction of funding cuts to fine arts courses in NSW TAFEs this year. Had worked continuously for TAFE as a PT casual since 1998, until this year. Have also had to resign to claim my accrued long service leave. Have not received a letter of any description to acknowledge my years of service etc etc.

The whole funding cut has been a fiasco, poorly organised, badly handled and dreadful for future generations wanting to study at tertiary levels outside of university.

It offers the necessary level of tertiary education outside of university training.

When I wanted to return to the arts the TAFE system provided me with the low cost,

short term course that I could manage both financially and time-wise

This has already happened to courses in the southern highlands area of the Illawarra TAFE system.

ironically there are no accredited private art colleges to compete with what TAFE offers in the way of fine art courses.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because our future generations rely on a well balanced and diverse range of options for education, TAFE used to provide the affordable alternative whilst maintaining quality.

Submitted by

tony ameneiro of Mittagong

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Naomi Frampton, of Tarragindi make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Community support worker, in the postcode of 4121.

For the last 10 years I have worked with people from Non-English Speaking Backgrounds - mainly from refugee backgrounds - who accessed our Community Literacy and Homework Assistance programs. Tafe provided an important pathway to entry level work opportunities for many of these people and I referred at least 100 people to different Tafe courses over that time, Aged Care, Child Care, Language Literacy Numeracy, Accounting and other Certificates were available on accessible campuses with a range of other student supports in place that smaller RTOs are not able to provide. Many of those people have gone on to work and a significant proportion used the Tafe pathway as their starting point for progressing to further education - particularly nursing as it allowed them to undertake their education at a manageable pace given the low education starting point they were starting from. They

are now supporting families and contributing to the economy through their taxes and other spending rather than remaining reliant on welfare.

Tafe is a vital pathway to education for adults of all age. Many people experience interrupted secondary education for a wide range of reasons and Tafe allows them to re-engage with education at a different pace and level to university education. It allows people to take up a diversity of subjects including trade oriented subjects and to do that in conjunction with work and other commitments if necessary and access resources such as Tafe libraries that smaller RTOs are not able to provide. It has shown the capacity to adapt to changing needs such as engagement with on-line learning but also recognises the need for many people to participate in face-to-face engagement with lecturers and other students to network and learn effectively. People need to undertake education at all levels of entry and Tafe remains an important element in the diversity of educational opportunity available.

My friend A. arrived from Sudan in about 2002. He had been to school only for a couple of years of primary education. He spoke very little English and attended community English classes initially then progressed to Tafe where he progressed through the Language, Literacy Numeracy program from levels 1-3. He then enrolled in a Certificate 3 in Aged Care and managed to get some work in a local nursing home as a result of the work experience component of the course. Through this time he was supporting a family of 5 children. He completed the certificate, went on to do a diploma through the local Tafe while continuing to work and has since enrolled in nursing at University. Now, 10 years after first starting Tafe, he is working as an enrolled nurse and continuing his education to become a registered nurse. His commitment to his own education clearly has an impact on the attitude to education shown by his children who are also considering university education. Tafe has been an extremely important part

of the education journey for A and his family.

As Coordinator of Community English classes where volunteer tutors worked with NESB students we had many requests for help from students studying a range of certificate and diploma courses. In recent years a growing proportion of these have been through private training organisations. These vary markedly in standard with some very poorly developed courses with assessment tasks that I have seen several highly educated tutors scratching their heads over. It is also quite difficult to get feedback and to speak directly to tutors who are familiar with the course as staff turnover in some of these RTOs can be very high. Job advertisements in the VET area show that there is a strong emphasis on recruiting staff who can develop courses that can be delivered on-line and developed under strong time pressures, rather than focusing primarily on the needs of employers and students to develop courses of good quality.

My local Tafe is about to close. It started a few years ago with the closure of the trade workshop and now the whole campus is to be closed and the land earmarked for housing development by private developers. I am in personal contact with at least half a dozen former Tafe employees who are unable to get work in their own fields and are taking up work at a lower skill level than they have been trained for. This clearly has a negative impact on lower-skilled workers who are increasingly shut out of opportunities that would have been entry level jobs for them even a year ago.

The lack of study support is a much-discussed issue for NESB students that I work with. The increased focus on on-line learning is manageable for some students but clearly shuts out people with literacy/numeracy issues, effectively reducing their chances of finding a supported pathway into training and into the workforce. This leaves those people reliant on welfare and often falling into deeper poverty as

unemployment becomes their life condition.

I

it is an important pathway to upskilling and further education for a significant section of the community who have had varied primary and secondary education for a wide range of reasons. A privatised and poorly regulated VET sector will not adequately equip people with the skills that industry and other employers need workers to have. The cheapest education is not the best and buying a qualification for the lowest price, as people tend to do in a market-based system, will not benefit Australia in the long-term.

Submitted by

Naomi Frampton of Tarragindi

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Matthew Hirst, of Sylvania make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 22 years old and work as a Mechanical Fitter, in the postcode of 2224.

Hi,

I have done a Toolmaking apprenticeship at Ultimo, an Aircraft Mechanical apprenticeship at Padstow Tafe, a Diploma of Marketing at Gymea Tafe, A cert iv in Business Management at Gymea Tafe and numerous subjects completed in an Associate Diploma of Industrial Engineering at St. George Tafe.

It should come as no surprise that doing these courses at Tafe have enabled me to go from a career in engineering to a career in sales and opened up a vast array of doors to me in the job market.

Not only does going to Tafe increase your job opportunities but it also helps you grow into a more mature and responsible person and member of the community with something positive to give back.

Tafe may be the only opportunity some people are given to increase their employment opportunities in a different career if you are unable to get the practical experience required.

As i no longer go to Tafe I havent been able to assess the impact of the budget cuts for myself, however during my time at Tafe it isnt hard to see when even then how much Tafe would benefit from an injection of money that could go to better in class resources or even building maintenance for that matter.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because they themselves should be well educated and be able to see first hand the impact that funding has on such a crucial resource as education. Everyone should have the right and be encouraged to undertake further courses and studies throughout their lives to be able to make a contribution to their workplace and communities which enhances our abilities to obtain a better quality of life for all.

I know people who some would label stupid or dumb, but who are actually intelligent people who just lack a good education and are ignorant in areas.

Please dont deny people the right to better themselves by further education as society as a whole will be the losers and anyone with any reasonable education who takes the time to read this will know its truth.

Submitted by

Matthew Hirst of Sylvania

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Teresa Briggs, of Riverton make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Retired, in the postcode of 6148.

When I came to Australia I decided I would like to work in a new area, so I enrolled in TAFE & got a diploma in Social, Services which got me a new job in that area where I worked for 22 years & loved it, I kept doing courses through TAFE which helped in my community. My daughter who finished school & wanted to have a career in the Arts field took a marvellous course covering all aspects of art, she then decided to go to Uni & take another arts course & she told the family that the courses taken at TAFE were far superior to those at Uni. We live in Perth. My daughter then went to South Australia & enrolled in TAFE for another course in the arts & now works for fringe Festivals all over the world as well as the Adelaide Festival all thanks to the wonderful TAFE courses she took. Our Family really appreciate TAFE & would not like to see funds cut to it, it is such a valuable asset.

From my stories above, plus I have seen young people who could not settle down at school & could not go to Uni however, having attended TAFE got a good education through the TAFE system & had more choices in their life.

I have told you my story & my daughters and there are so many other people that I know have had wonderful opportunities in life that they would not have had otherwise if it were not for TAFE

No

Yes, I think we should not have these private colleges, just stick with TAFE, it is a waste of valuable resources funding these private colleges, put the money into TAFE instead

Less course available at the various colleges, less resources available for the already good courses running, low morale in both teachers & students, frustrated with all of the above

As above

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the young people who do not wish to go to Uni & would like to be well educated in a trade or other things do very well when they attend the wonderful TAFE system, long may it

last for our future young people.

Submitted by

Teresa Briggs of Riverton

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Judy Simpson, of Meadowvale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Registered Nurse, in the postcode of 4670.

There have been many people that I have been involved with that TAFE has played a very significant role in their lives,by offering the opportunity to gain a formal qualification and upgrade their skills.

I have been preceptor and mentor for Cert 111 aged care students and also for people doing their Endorsed Enrolled Nursing courses.TAFE is very important and often is the only viable option financially to offer these people an opportunity to improve their qualifications and pursue further knowledge gain lifelong careers.

As above,they start off maybe doing a Cert 111 qualification whether it be in Aged care or Disability services and the other Trades and they soon realise that their are opportunities for further study and to gain higher qualifications.Some get an opportunity

later in life which they only dreamed of in their younger years, which is something that TAFE is able to deliver and encourage, they don't have to leave the local area, or move away from family and friends to gain a qualification and often stay in the regional area where they are needed.

As above again, in that maybe they did not have the educational requirements to satisfy enrolment criteria, however mature aged students from TAFE usually know what they want to pursue and have a genuine passion and often make the most of the opportunity because they missed out when they were younger.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...you can gain a trade /qualification whilst still living at home or in the local area, having the support of family and friends and not having the added expense of having to move somewhere else and pay high rent and everything else associated with living away from home.

Yes,
especially in regards to Nursing courses, often the support is NOT there for the students they are inadequately prepared for their transition into the aged care workforce, they are given a look through rose coloured glasses type ideal, and get a rude shock when they do start work, as they have not had adequate work placements during training to prepare them for the real work place.

Not as yet, but I'm sure it will come.

From reading the offered curriculum, I believe there have been cuts.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because—and as per all the points listed previously.

And to give everyone equal opportunity to gain a trade/career qualification and enable career advancement.

Submitted by

Judy Simpson of Meadowvale

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Euthymia Sephton, of Ivanhoe make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retired teacher, in the postcode of 3079.

I initially left school at 16 years of age (old Intermediate standard) and I found in my early 20s TAFE provided me the opportunity to do some further studies which led to me going on to University in my 30s. After graduating from University as a secondary teacher I actually got employment in the TAFE system and worked within the system for 15 years. Apart from benefiting those students unable to go on to academic studies at University, TAFE offered mature age students a stepping stone to pursue further study, giving them confidence in themselves and in many cases encouragement to pursue even higher studies at University.

Provides a wide range of areas to cater for all individuals who don't wish to go on to academic studies at University. Thus providing training that is valuable and sort for by

employers.

Yes mentioned that above - certainly helped me and others I have known as both teacher and student.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes definitely! I took early retirement 8 years ago and I certainly noticed then the start of private colleges opening up offering similar Certificates to what we were teaching but in a much shorter period of time. Basically an introductory course rather than giving time for students to practise what they were learning and able to become competent in their tasks.

Department I was working in has been scrapped, courses have been cut, Campuses offering minimum choice of courses - meaning students have to travel further.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it has been and does play a vital role in offering opportunities for young as well as mature age people to take up further study. The recent increase in TAFE fees also makes it difficult now for individuals on low income to take up opportunities for study.

Submitted by

Euthymia Sephton of Ivanhoe

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, , of Sunshine make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Project manager, in the postcode of 3121.

When I was a youth worker, I liaised closely with the local TAFE to develop courses that were interesting and resulted in job placements in a rural area. TAFE is a bridge between skill development and employment choices.

TAFE is a bridge between skill development and employment choices.

TAFE provides opportunity to educate students in a cost effective environment

TAFE provides practical skill development

TAFE has experienced teachers/educators

TAFE provides linkages between education and employment

TAFE=EDUCATION=JOBS

It wasn't the second chance, it was the only real opportunity. If u live in a regional/rural

area, TAFE is often the only real affordable option for further education. You reduce/remove this option will result in a heavier reliance upon government income payments. I think any economist would argue that you would get more outcomes from TAFE than that of Newstart?

I don't live there now, but I would argue that TAFE is integral to the rural/regional fabric of the area and surrounds. TAFE created conversations between local employers and educators. Looked at what local students and potential students were interested in. TAFE had their finger on the pulse. Universities said "where's that?"

Yes. It has been shown that many RTOs are cutting corners and cannot demonstrate that students have met learning outcomes... I'm assuming this is because many RTOs are profit driven. I don't have any direct or first hand examples, only that reported in the media

Job loss of teachers

Reduced partnerships

Less employment opportunities for students

Potential students less likely to choose TAFE as an education option

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is appropriately funded.

TAFE = options = education = independence = reduced reliance on government

TAFE = choice = future

NO TAFE = stay where you are = no choice = reliance upon others

Submitted by

of Sunshine

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Martin Whelan, of Bathurst make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a TAFE teacher, in the postcode of 2795.

I teach many apprentices who come in at 16 years of age, straight from school. I also have others who are starting a career later in life making the jump from unskilled labouring where they have moved from job to job due to low pay or being cast aside due to low skill levels. Our oldest current apprentice is a 59 year old japanese gentlemen who is in stage 2. It is amazing to see the development of all these apprentices as they grow and learn their trade.

Our section teaches the fitting & machining trade to apprentices in central west NSW. We service manufacturing, engineering and mining related businesses from Bathurst, Cowra, Parkes, Forbes, Molong, Dubbo, and Cobar.

I have seen hundreds of young people do a trade and become a valuable member of their community. I have seen dozens of our apprentices start their own businesses, based on their trade skills. I have also seen a few apprentices who never finished their trade, pursued other methods of earning and as a result went to gaol.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means that young people can enter the workforce and receive training that gives them employment skills. TAFE plays a valuable role in helping these young people to develop good habits in relation to OH&S by raising their awareness of hazards at a stage of their lives when they are vulnerable, naive and keen to impress.

Private providers have so far cherry picked the courses they have targeted for delivery. High cost specialist areas such as the metal trades have not seen the competition that others areas such as business and IT have experienced. The competitive environment is causing providers to shorten courses, reduce face to face delivery hours and focus on assessment rather than teaching/learning. This can only lead to a lowering of skill levels and a reduction in the quality of course delivery. Over the past three years we have been continually encouraged to get into the race to the bottom.

Recently TAFE enrolment fees have seen significant increases. This year our materials fee more than doubled. 2012 materials cost was \$240, 2013 saw this rise to \$480. Many apprentices are required to carry this cost themselves. I see this as placing a tariff on our students to try to fix our budget shortfall. Class support hours have been cut so we now have no time allocated to clean our workshop, prepare material and service and repair tooling.

We are falling behind because our equipment is outdated. We can't even maintain what we have, never mind thinking of updating to the current industry standard.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we are already stretched to the limit. Morale is low and we are in fear of losing many of our teaching staff. A tradeperson in the mining industry is earning in excess of \$100000. Many of our third year apprentices are earning more than their teachers. Our regional students are travelling 450 kms each way to attend TAFE due to the closure of regional TAFE sections. Each month our head teacher comes back from the faculty management group meeting to tell us we are over budget. We are only delivering what we have forecast as our program. We are all working hard and we are getting sick of not being able to; buy material, being asked by our students why they only get one attempt at many tasks, when they are supposed to be practicing skills. Or worse when they laugh at the equipment we are using, because they see it as antique. TAFE NSW are using too many casual staff to teach classes, because they are not replacing teachers as they leave. Our curriculum centres have been closed down, and the number of permanent teaching staff is declining due to retiring staff not being replaced. When the MEM05 training package was released there were no resources to support it. We have been on a downward spiral for the past ten years and we desperately need to address some of these issues or we will not be able to provide skilled workers to meet the needs of the mining boom and the NSW agricultural sector. We (TAFE NSW) are supposed to be the premier VET provider the major player ready to address the skills shortage. Well fund us that way!

Submitted by

Martin Whelan of Bathurst

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Robynne Burchell, of Mila make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a I'm not employed, in the postcode of 2632.

My son is a chef. He has a trade qualification that he acquired through TAFE. Without TAFE he would not have had the opportunity to study to gain his qualification. He trained at William Anglis and was given a strong understanding of every aspect of the job of chef, including all aspects of costing,accounting and every other task that you need to understand to eventually become a person who would be competent to run a business.

His TAFE training was far superior to any other commercial trainer, who simply teaches you how to cook?

In everyway TAFE is an essential trainer of the skills that are not available at Uni. Tafe

trains the carers of the elderly,gives skills to help people to return to work, trains those who see a need for a different skill in their community and most importantly helps to connect community through participation.

And if you are lucky you don't have to leave home to gain the training you need through TAFE

I'm hoping to do a course in aged care next year and if I am successful that will indeed change my life. I have been unemployed for many years and I hope that if I complete this course I may gain employment and therefore some self-respect.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...that as I said in the previous answer if I cannot attend TAFE I will not be able to receive the training I want to enable me to get a job.

I have heard about these places, but as I live in the bush they do not appear to have set up shop in my region yet. But no doubt if TAFE is gutted they will move on in

I honestly can't comment on this although I am sure that it has happened.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦in country areas we need to be able to attend training. We cant all go to University and lots of us don't want to. We want to be trained in the areas where there are skill shortages so that we can be productive members of our local communities.

I thought that was why we had TAFE, so that we could get the training we and the community require to fill the jobs with skilled people and that would be a benefit to everyone.

Submitted by

Robynne Burchell of Mila

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Chris Oakley, of Sunshine Beach make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 45 years old and work as a teacher aide, in the postcode of 4567.

I graduated from an academic high school with science and maths. I then went to a TAFE (pre TAFE days) where I learned skills in commerce (shorthand and typing) and worked for many years as a legal secretary and court reporter.

After that I chose to have my family. After giving birth to 3 children I volunteered at the local school. By this stage I had moved from the capital city of Brisbane to the Sunshine Coast. There were very few jobs available for legal secretaries and court reporters in Noosa so I obtained a job as a teacher aide at the local school.

Eventually I obtained formal qualifications in Certificate III in Education Support at TAFE, to enhance my attributes as a Teacher Aide.

This job (and the qualifications i obtained at TAFE) enabled me to stay in this location (noosa) and work and support my children as a single mother. Otherwise I might have lived on the single mothers pension for a long time.

My daughter, at the age of 26, has returned to TAFE this year to complete a course in essay and assignment writing and skills for referencing, to enable her to improve her chances when she resumes an offer into Bachelor of Education she received last year.

If this course was not available for her she would be on the back foot when start her degree next year. it will give her assignment writing skills and also help prepare her mindset and give her confidence with she starts her course next year.

it offers courses for people who do not want to go to university and enables them to gain skills to enter the workforce and start a job which they would be unable to do before undertaking the course of study at TAFE.

my daughter left school after year 12 and carried on her professional surfing job till she was 21. then she entered the workforce in retail and did a couple of TAFE courses in administration and marketing. this helped her become manager of 3 shops owned by a company who employed her as a retail assistant.

my son did an op for year 12. he got into accountancy at uni and hated it. he undertook a tafe course in travel agents work, but after completing it, did not want to work in front of a computer all day.;

he then did a certificate at TAFE in outdoor recreation and worked for novotel twin

waters resort for about 3 years. realising that he would not be able to support a family on this wage, he undertook an apprenticeship and TAFE course, with Energex and became a linesman with them. he loves the outside work, earns a great wage and will be able to support a family when he eventually has one.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means that there are options out there for our children to extend their education and maximise the options to obtain better paying jobs and stay in this area. the courses offered in the tafe in our area focus on giving the students skills for jobs which are needed in a tourism based town.

no because we live in a tourist town on the coast. i think these colleges only operate in capital cities or large regional towns.

no, because i'm 60 and i'm not involved in tafe life and my children have their qualifications and are established in their careers

see '7' above

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦...otherwise you will have a huge increase in unemployable teenagers with no qualifications living on the dole - a huge loss to that generation and future generations of our children.

Submitted by

chris oakley of sunshine beach

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, p john murphy, of figtree make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Teacher, in the postcode of 2525.

I did a trade at TAFE .Became a teacher in 1990 and decided to give back to the trade I loved . Now we are being pushed to deliver a inferior trade Qualification Which will take us from the strongest to one of the weakest in the world .

Smart will be the past tence if we continue down the path we are traveling

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦

Submitted by

p john murphy of figtree

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Carolyn Busfield, of Holsworthy make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Teacher, in the postcode of 2173.

I have been educated in the public system in Australia through high school and entered Uni straight from Year 12. My father was a TAFE teacher for more than 25 years. After 18 years in industry I decided to become a TAFE teacher because I wanted to help others achieve their dreams. Through my teenage years, I saw the difference my father made to kids who were simply not cut out for high school. My brother was one of them, and now so is my nephew. They were boys that failed in year 10. Were treated as though they were dumb, and told they had no real future. Each of them simply didn't learn in a school environment. Once they got to TAFE, with the wonderful teaching and hand on practical knowledge, they flourished. Due to the smaller class sizes, my father was able to help a lot of these boys achieve and succeed, where others had simply pushed them to one side. My brother now has his

own engineering business and my nephew is halfway through his apprentice and is doing brilliantly.

TAFE is an important place for many Australians. Governments are often stating they wish to get people into the work force and to be positive participants in our communities and society. TAFE is the starting point for these people. It allows immigrants the opportunity to learn our language and about our society and then to get skills they can really use in the real world to get jobs. It offers those with a weaker educational background to improve themselves and achieve something they never thought they could, a qualification. It allows those without the confidence or money to access a quality education with teachers that are TEACHERS, not facilitators, not trainers, but teachers that truly care about their students and the students outcome, not how much money they are worth to the business. TAFE is interested in giving students skills they can use, that industry want, not just ticking some boxes on competency lists. I have seen a certificate 4 graduate greeted by her children with flowers and a dinner invitation as though she had just graduated her Masters. They had flown up from Melbourne for the evening. Her graduation was that special to them. I have one student who said to me "I am so proud of myself. Not only can I spell balance and reconciliation now, but I can actually do one too!" If, like me, you have been educated in Australia with no issues, it is almost impossible to understand the value of what TAFE offers until you see these students and the pride they feel when they graduate. I will challenge you. Come to a TAFE graduation and talk to TAFE students. You will never look at education in the same light again.

The current TAFE system seems to be eroding under my feet. Currently, we are teaching classes for 35 to 40 students to meet our targets. If a class does not have 26

students – it will be cancelled. We had a part time class with 17 students cancelled due to lack of funds. A year ago this would have run. That’s 17 people who will not be able to advance in their field. If they can’t advance, then the entry level positions do not become available for the next people with little or no experience or qualifications to get a toe on the working ladder. Added to this, we are teaching in completely unair-conditioned rooms that can reach over 35 on a summer’s day and require jackets, gloves and scarves in winter. There is also a total lack of technology (1 projector in 4 rooms that we use, no smart boards) and policies that defy imagination. Becoming a modern teacher is a real struggle. For example, we are continually asked to use technology, build on-line tools and resources and to do more and more, but policy is that there is only 1 computer between 2 teachers. As we often teach at the same time, we often all need the computers at the same time. It beggars belief. Does any other business insist on one computer between 2 staff? Refuse to install technology that may be worth \$5,000 that can service literally hundreds of students a week?

Submitted by

Carolyn Busfield of Holsworthy

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Pauline Barker, of Gymea Bay make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 45 years old and work as a Payroll/HR Coordinator, in the postcode of 2229.

I studied at TAFE and gained a diploma in Human Resource Mgt. You learn practical skills whilst working and it is affordable. TAFE is recognised across many industries. Lots of students who study at TAFE for a trade or traineeship gain practical affordable skills to pursue a career in their chosen field and if they are successful in completing their studies then they can progress to a Uni course and gain a degree if they want to. My son is currently doing a TAFE Course as part of his HSC. Great way to learn and study in a field of interest whilst gaining a qualification.

TAFE is able to reach practical skills to studies from all sources and ages to apply to the workforce. The teacher at TAFE have come from the workforce and apply their skills and knowledge. Unlike uni TAFE teaching is industry based with practical

knowledge. Trade skills are taught from tradespeople etc. Teaching a an apprentice requires practice skills. Teaching a person in Admin also requires practical skills. Only when a person who wishes to further their knowledge and increase their qualifications does a University offer further assistance.

TAFE offers course to women who have been out of the workforce due to raising a family. These course allow them to gain skills to reenter the workforce. Where skills lack TAFE offers short courses to assist people to gain these skills to reenter or move on through the workforce.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes. Lots of private colleges have tried to encourage people to study with them offering increased fees with less quality learning.

Cut backs on certain courses which are no longer offered by TAFE.

inability to gain skills in an area of interest or skill ability. Have been unable to provide the course therefore the job prospects have been eliminated or reduced.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because there are many people who would like to gain skills to fullfill their careers. If you would like Australian employee to be skilled then you need to offer the course for them to gain their Certificate, Diplomas etc. TAFE is a means of gaining skills, knowledge and a qualification.

Submitted by
pauline Barker of GyMEA Bay

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Tom McWilliam, of North Harcourt make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a TAFE teacher, in the postcode of 3453.

I work in TAFE and absolutely abhor the changes to TAFE done by the past Vic govt., and of course the present State gov'ts' destruction of TAFE is a cause for concern.

Well, it used to. The present government cuts make it problematical whether any skills can be developed at all.

TAFE has given people a second chance since I have been teaching there - 1974. The Victorian government cuts have effectively stopped this.

I live in Bendigo, whose TAFE is under threat...

Please...

we all know about them. All the 'legitimate' ones, like CVGT, are just so dodgy... And the "get a TAA for \$500 in one weekend" nonsense has not been stopped. Come ON...

140 jobs lost, many courses cut. Student fees tripled, all the nasty stuff of staff no longer talking to /believing/ etc. each other

well, since Jacinta Allan's "reforms" in 2009, and the Coalition's enthusiastic embracing of the Privatisation agenda, there has been a definite 'gutting' of TAFE. Daniel Andrews' bullshit announcement last year definitely DID NOT help TAFE.

Listen, if you are an AEU committee, or any sort of 'union' organisation, get your act together to actually do something about this, okay?

Submitted by

Tom McWilliam of North Harcourt

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Helen Rourke, of Chatswood make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a Librarian, in the postcode of 2067.

I studied at tafe following the HSC, I wasn't prepared to commit to a further 3 years of study at uni so decided tafe was the option for me.

I studied librarianship and have continued to work in the field, working continuously apart from a few years off for babies.

Tafe is fantastic for those like me, unwilling or unable to take on a uni course.

I am appalled by the cuts to the art faculties. Art plays a huge role in our community, and should be encouraged. It is not recognised widely enough as a profession, as an

outlet for recreation and expression.

Lack of teachers and courses available to those who want to study arts is unbelievable. There are students who have unfinished courses due to the cutbacks.

There are many school leavers and mature age students who have benefitted from tafe courses, even if they don't lead to a profession. The government should be supporting all levels of education for all students.

Submitted by

Helen Rourke of Chatswood

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Leon teague, of Footscray make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a clown doctor, in the postcode of 3011.

I went to TAFE in 1983 at Prahran.

Did me a world of good and kept me out of (most) trouble.

It catches the people who do not fit into the school /uni stream or complete drop out.

I didnt finish HSC. Tafe was there to help me on.

I now have a Diploma of Perf Art at W>A>A>P>A Perth and a B.A with honours from Melb UNi.

Without Tafe, I may never have made it on to the later two degrees.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

N/A i live in Footscray

Dont Know

Yes

I know of course cuts and some teachers I know have had diminished responsibilities.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦ It works for a section of the community that are otherwise forgotten, and that means , unskilled, unhappy and unproductive people.

Submitted by

Leon teague of Footscray

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Carole Goldsmith, of Gardenvale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Trainer / Journalist , in the postcode of Vic 3185.

I first studied at TAFE when it was free and I am astounded that the Julia Gillard, introduced the removal of government funding at TAFE colleges for people with higher qualifications, who wanted to re skill themselves.

At Universities, students may learn a lot of academic information that may be of little use for their future - being taught by professors who have not worked in the industry for many years.

At TAFE colleges, students learn real skills for their future careers and are taught by people who are often still working in the industry, so they know the current rules, regulations and work practices.

TAFE has helped me to RPL the global experience I have gained and transfer that into real qualifications essential for my work as a TAFE trainer and international news correspondent.

Being able to go to TAFE means students from the country come to my training courses at TAFE colleges in the city. This also means that by having TAFE colleges in the country, I can take my courses to the country and help my students to build their own global career skills.

Many of the poorly regulated colleges are providing substandard courses at reduced rates. Their students are not getting the excellent training that they would get at TAFE colleges.

Yes budget cuts have greatly affected the TAFE courses as the less government money provided, the more students have to pay for their courses. The price of education is become exorbitant, so the government needs to inject Billions of dollars into educating and skilling our population.

There have been many cut backs in staff numbers in the TAFE system and I have been paid the same rate for seven years.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFEs are providing real practical skills, education and training for the people of Australia. Inject more money into the TAFE colleges and not the private providers!

Submitted by

Carole Goldsmith of Gardenvale

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Simon Kay, of Cotswold Hills make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Technical Manager, in the postcode of 4350.

After high school, I was employed as a Trainee Metallurgist in the mid 80s in a Queensland foundry. As part of my training, I studied Industrial Metallurgy externally through Qld TAFE. I was one of only three in my year studying this in Queensland. Since then, I have gained valuable experience in the foundry industry based on my learning at TAFE.

In the mid-2000s, I was heavily involved in working with TAFE in Qld to regenerate foundry training and to update the defunct metallurgy training. I am proud to have been involved in small part in the creation of a new foundry training facility in Qld TAFE.

The casting industry is fundamental to the economy of Australia. If the training of our

future foundry workers, be they moulders, patternmakers or metallurgists, is cut short by the demise or winding back of TAFE, this country will suffer enormously. We will no longer have the ability to make the castings that help us mine our resources, plough our fields, harvest our crops, process our foods, transport and pump our water, our cars will all be imported. Castings touch every aspect of our lives, though they are rarely recognized or acknowledged. Take away the TAFE training and you take away our self-reliance as a nation.

I am aware of the constant pressure put on TAFE to be an income-generating entity for government. We have lost our way as a society if we see training people with vital skills as being a money-making exercise rather than the opportunity to give our citizens an opportunity to improve their lifestyle and contribute positively to our society.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because I passionately believe that we will be a poorer society if we don't provide a quality method of trade training. As a father and a grandfather, I need to see my children and their children be given the same opportunities I have been given by my TAFE training.

Submitted by

Simon Kay of Cotswold Hills

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Marilyn Shoobert, of Yarrawarra make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2233.

All 3 of my children have been to TAFE to do courses which have been vital to their future careers. The two boys did electrical trades and my daughter did a visual merchandising course which gave her skills which she later used in her jobs with an environmental firm and a local council.

TAFE is a vital institution- it can not be replaced by private organisations. The expertise of the teaching staff is second to none. My daughter-in-law went to a private secretarial college which she believed was second rate compared to what she could have learnt at TAFE and the promise of future employment was a farphy.

My son was able to finish high school to Year 12 level because of the course he was

able to do at the local TAFE.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because my children would not be contributing to our society without the training they received at our local TAFE. We could not afford the fees to put them through an inferior private training institution. Private does not mean better.

Submitted by

Marilyn Shoobert of Yarrawarra

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, David Holyoake, of Chetwynd make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 35 years old and work as a I'm on a DSP, in the postcode of 3312.

I was working as a fire tower operator for the Dept of Sustainability and Environment. This was a summer position on a casual basis. I became ill with a chronic disease and unable to return to working for DS&E as a fire tower operator. I went back to study Visual Arts at Horsham T.A.F.E This was a fantastic experience. That led onto further study. I know have an Honors Degree in Visual Arts with a major in Photography. Hopefully moving onto Masters study this year.

I believe tafe is extremely important for skills development for employment and further study. T.A.F.E not only developed my intellectual skills, helped build my confidence and feel less isolated while suffering a chronic illness. I think the Liberal govt approach to tafe is flawed by cutting funding and sacking staff.

After leaving my job through illness. I enrolled at my local tafe college. As young person at Tech school art wasn't an option as a career path. Returning to study through tafe was a fantastic breakthrough in my confidence and personal well being, not forgetting the skills I picked up on the journey to becoming a professional visual artist. This led into further study.

I live in a regional area in South West Victoria Tafe is the only option I still had to travel over 100 klms to go to tafe. Horsham was the only tafe college offering visual arts. Now that has gone to the wall since the lib govt pulled funding to tafe

I cant give examples however the media has been full of stories of dodgy private colleges. I don't believe they are ever as good as a properly funded tafe system

Increase in fees affects the financially less well off like me I'm on a DSP, The reduction of the visual arts course is a disgrace. it marginalizes rural students even further. One thing I did see at tafe students would do their diploma of vis arts and move into further study, work as independent artists, some students finished vis arts and moved into other courses at tafe. tafe was a great

I've seen Horsham tafe's vis arts course reduced to one day a week terrible situation for young arts students wanting to stay in the area to study.

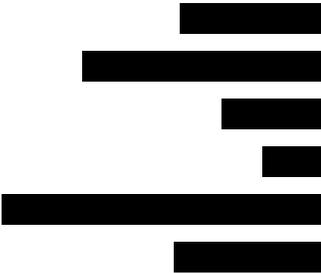
Ive done several tafe course over the years I have them to be really good in the quality of teaching, materials and facilities. The staff have always been supportive and very helpful. The tafe system is a great community of people. Fund it properly don't privatize it. Tafe is a great way to get educated. Private - public partnership's don't work.

Research in England has proved conclusively that these partnerships don't work for the benefit of the public.

Submitted by

David Holyoake of Chetwynd

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Sarah Hugo, of Success make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a shop assistant, in the postcode of 6164.

I am currently hoping to further my education through Tafe only after I graduate high school. My elder sister has achieved an Advanced diploma at Tafe, which has influenced me to possibly do similar.

I believe that Tafe is the kind of environment that helps you to extend your education and also at the same time develop useful workplace and social experience.

My sister again chose to not attend university though when she decided she wanted to further her education Tafe was easily accessible.

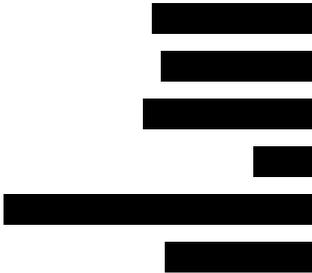
I do not live in a regional area.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦!

Submitted by

Sarah Hugo of Success

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, bruno perovic, of alexandra hills make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 4161.

left school during recession, joined army because there were no jobs. Worked in factories, builders labourer. Then At 38 became an an electrical apprentice. Tafe enabled me to upskill and change my life. I am very glad to be a teacher ant Tafe to help others change thier lives.

In a very short time, working class people gain skills to get better jobs

as , above. An interest in electronics led me to an electrical apprenticeship. Great jobs, security and mobility

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I have heard about private providers taking the easy options, low cost , tick & flic leaving State Tafe to teacher the high cost, technical and low profit ie motor winding

lack of funds for equipment, poor staff traning

Tafe managers reducing student contact to 70 to 60 % of nominated hours for courses

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦to keep trades skills high for future economic booms. Train young or provide a path to up- skill

Submitted by

bruno perovic of alexandra hills

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Andrew Olsson, of Cobargo make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Seafarer, in the postcode of 2550.

It was the TAFE course I did back in 1991 that gave me the opportunity to work as a rigger / scaffolder in the BHP steel works in Port Kembla, myself and 350 other long term unemployed Illawarra residents also completed TAFE accredited courses in the fields of steel fixing, form work carpentry, rigging, dogging, scaffolding, and concret placment and finishing, witch enabled the majority of participants to gain employment on the concret gravity MODU West tuna and Bream B witch were constructed in the inner harbour of Port Kembla and to this day are still in use. With out the training from TAFE, many in the Illawarra would never have had the opportunity to work gainfully on these projects.

TAFE courses are indispensable to a ever changing work inviroment, it can both teach

new skillsets to mature workers and give the younger generation a grounding in the skills necessary to work in a large variety of jobs, and also enables the up skilling of new technology so workers can competently use and operate them.

Personally I had to leave my childhood (18 to 30) year occupation because of family commitments, (I was a seafarer) so I retrained through TAFE so as gain employment in heavy industry and be home regularly to help coordinate the care necessary for my family. without the availability of the courses through TAFE I unfortunately would have been unable to keep my family both medically cared for and housed close to that care as I would not have been able to gain employment in my area with out the skills I learnt at TAFE.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...that the courses made available to me to gain the opportunities I needed for work is also available to kids/ adults in the regional areas as well. And so it should be.

I returned to the maritime industry when my family grew up and the need for me to be at home diminished and when I had to do an industry course (STCW95) I applied to the cheapest operator with upon starting the course (5 day) learnt that they couldn't complete the whole 4 components of the course and that I would have to return in the new year to finish the course. this was to a very large extra financial burden upon myself.

I have needed to enquire as to the availability of several courses through TAFE in my local area and been amazed to learn that they were not available locally and any person wishing to do them would need to travel some 4 hrs by car to complete them, this is a disgrace for a supposed lucky country.

If the courses are not available locally then how can local people do them, and I'm talking here regional places like the Bega valley.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded with a view to smaller classes and better collective agreements for the teachers because remote areas have a thriving youth with desires to work hard and as safely as possible in industry's not so prevalent in these communities, the youth of today are keen to travel to places where employment is sought on a wage that can fulfill dreams and aspirations of a forward thinking youth, the technologies of Solar Power, wind generation and clean green environmentally friendly sources of energy are somewhat lacking in all countries ESPECILLY our own and it's my beliefs that if courses such as these were offered at learning institutions such as TAFE then many young people and indeed the workers in the old fossil fuel industry's would benefit and thereby the whole country and indeed the world. This is the area we should be expanding in public interest not cutting and allowing the private sector to manage in their interest and therefore the interest of the old technologies of fossil fuel.

Submitted by

Andrew Olsson of Cobargo

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Angela Stringer, of Traralgon make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Primary School Teacher, in the postcode of 3844.

I have been a teacher for over 20 years and have seen many of my students lives changed by the opportunities provided by our local TAFE. Many of the kids in our region have little or no family support to continue their education or even complete secondary school. The chance to complete a VET course with the support of the TAFE system, learn a trade, compete a hands-on course, etc is all that the kids with limited opportunity ask for. As a teacher I know what this means to them!

TAFE in our area provides access to training that no other provider is prepared to provide. Courses that are not profitable have been provided by TAFE, trades that are needed in our area have been supported by TAFE. Without these courses, the youth in our area have little option but to rely on the dole. The future of our region will suffer as a

result of an underskilled workforce and higher unemployment rates.

Many in our region, particularly women, have difficulty returning to or entering the workforce after raising their families. They rely on local providers, especially TAFE, to provide courses that help them enter the workforce with the required skills & confidence.

Living in a regional area means that access to training is costly and that travel times & distance make it almost out of reach for many. The trip to & from Melbourne to complete study is costly & time consuming for young people and impossible for those with family commitments after normal hours. The recent cuts to courses at our local TAFE campuses have meant that many people I know have had their courses either stopped before they have completed them or the face to face hours that the course provides (but not the cost) cut. If these cuts continue or are not reversed, the likelihood of our TAFE locally surviving is low. I fear for the students in our area & the future of our region if this happens!

Many local industries, both industrial & commercial now prefer to send their trainees out of the area to Melbourne or in some cases interstate to obtain training and qualifications now that the private providers have taken over courses in their fields. The TAFE college locally has had to stop providing many courses due to funding costs & the local industry does not believe the private providers locally are providing adequate, quality, safe teaching for our very industrial area.

Speak with Australian Paper about the quality of the training provided locally.

Locally, TAFE has cut courses, increased fees, closed campuses & annexes, sacked staff, increased the uncertainty of tenure of staff, reduced face-to-face teaching time and added 'home study', increased prac class sizes. These cuts have also impacted on

the opportunities available for secondary school students in VCAL & VET courses.

The State Govt's cuts have decimated the TAFE system in our area. The opportunity for students in rural & regional areas has been significantly reduced and the result of this will be seen for generations to come.

If we as a country value our children, our future, we need to invest in their education in all areas. The TAFE system in Victoria has provided a service to both students and employers for many years. It is essential that we offer opportunities for those students, in particular those in our rural & regional areas, to attain the skills and knowledge required to contribute valuably & productively to our society.

I am passionate about the students I teach, their future, their self-esteem.... I can see them now being left to ponder a future with little or no opportunity. I ask your committee to look beyond the costs of provision and understand the personal cost of taking away the only educational opportunities of some of our most disadvantaged community members!

Submitted by

Angela Stringer of Traralgon

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Kate Crozier, of Warners Bay make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Social Worker, in the postcode of 2282.

I did my higher school certificate at TAFE. It provided me with an alternative opportunity to gain my HSC and further my studies at university. The teachers at TAFE were so encouraging and made me feel like I could achieve anything. Without this system, many kids like me would never have had a chance to follow our dreams.

TAFE provides young people with an nurturing environment that helps to promote life long goals. TAFE did not only help me achieve my HSC but it gave me skills for life. TAFE encourages young people to become autonomous, responsible and independent. These skills later reflect in your work ethic and attitudes in the work force.

I went to a few different high schools. I was bullied at school and due to some behavioural issues, was ultimately asked to leave. Without TAFE, I would not have been given an opportunity to learn and further my academic achievements. I attended TAFE for 2 years full time before gaining the mark I needed to qualify for a position at university.

Coming from a regional area, Port Macquarie did not offer many other options for alternative tertiary education. Port now has links to Newcastle University which is great to see.

Thanks to the TAFE system, I have since completed a university degree in B. of Social Work. I have been employed for 4yrs full time since graduation. TAFE has offered me the best start to my working career and without TAFE, I would have ended up a very low income earner and would probably have lived in a regional area all my life. TAFE has changed my life for the better.

Submitted by

Kate Crozier of Warners Bay

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Dawn Skelton, of Rivervale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a transport officer community services local government, in the postcode of 0062.

Tafe helped me acquire additional qualifications in my current position - The council I work for City of Bayswater put quite a few of us through on the Apprentice programme - it is my understanding that the government rewarded city of bayswater financially for this - this was not passed on to any staff working for the city & our 2.5hr formal study sessions were unpaid for by the city - all the study was done in our own time - so what happened to the money - Tafe had advised us to claim our study sessions - these were knocked back by our community services manager with no explanation - yet other staff not even receiving government kickback were given paid study time - please advise as Tafe felt outside of their expertise - & the apprentice centre staff would not comment

Had a fabulous teacher & mentor at tafe - actually more than one - but was particularly inspired by "Annette"

I feel that Tafe is there for the mature age student who might have become redundant in the workforce & needs to or would like to re-train to find a position - also I have noticed how much they have helped students with English as a 2nd language. As stated earlier however I would like to see more transparency with regard to paid study leave - in mine & all the other workplace study assisted staff whether we studied or not we still got the same pay & it very much seemed that the council was not only financially rewarded for no effort on its part but they also benefited from staff that were additionally trained at not only no expense to themselves but also were financially rewarded for provided a platform for staff to be additionally trained at the time & expense of the staff involved

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

- I don't live in a country area but it would be a poor choice to take tafe away from country as the privately trained colleges only pick off the cream in larger towns & metropolis

yes - 6 week courses or less in cert 3 aged care - fast - trac - pay for a qualification that really does not count for much - that said the HTA courses I have used are very well managed Cert 111 aged care & therapy assistant - for the record I self funded

since the government has sold off most of our profitable previously owned government assets - it is hardly rocket science to figure there is going to be this downside to the short term greed of government selling public assets to private enterprise

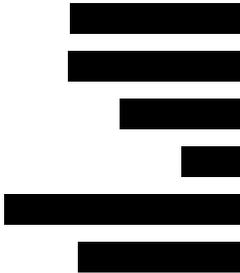
what else can I say read the previous paragraphs please

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because - like all community serving & not profitable services as previously stated the governments successive have sold most of our profitable assets so how do you pay for public services that are not earning a profit?

Submitted by

Dawn Skelton of Rivervale

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Lyn Rainforest, of DOWNER make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a volunteer, in the postcode of 2602.

As a home tutor in English for new arrivals in Australia, I work with TAFE teachers to provide appropriate support for students. My current student wants to become a plumber and I am very pleased to know that TAFE provides pre-apprenticeship courses for people such as him.

TAFE teachers are highly qualified professionals who work incredibly hard with decreasing resources to develop a highly skilled workforce. They provide experiences that help their students participate effectively in the workforce.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

When I worked in Mike Kelly's Electorate Office in Queanbeyan, we received several letters from TAFE teachers concerned about the de-funding of traditional TAFE trade Certificate 3 courses and their replacement by softer options that did not produce skilled graduates. At the same time, private colleges were being set up that offered courses previously taught in TAFE colleges, but now taught by untrained teachers at cheaper rates in highly unsuitable accommodation. With the closure of courses in TAFEs, sometimes properly qualified teachers taught at these colleges, but at lower wages that did not reflect their training or experience. These colleges had none of the student support systems provided by TAFEs.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because with solid student and teacher support systems (properly trained and paid teachers, trained student advisers, well set up workshops and classrooms, good research facilities) the whole community will benefit from a properly trained workforce. If training is delivered in a shoddy way, we will get a shoddy workforce. A properly funded TAFE system can produce highly professional, creative, motivated and skilled workers

Submitted by

Lyn Rainforest of DOWNER

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Angela Mackin, of Tullibigeal make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2669.

I have had 2 sons attend TAFE. School is not for everyone...my sons were not academic students and were much more suited to the hands on practical subjects offered at TAFE.

Please note that Australian starts with a capital letter!

TAFE contributes to a workforce that can use hands on skills as opposed to just brain power. There is a certain amount of theory involved in TAFE but the graduates are also the ones who are prepared to get their handds dirty and get into physical work.

My eldest son was not successful at school & always failed. He had low self-esteem. He started a welding course at TAFE & at the end of the first night the teacher said that

his work was the best. For the first time in his life he was the best & he hasn't looked back since.

My family and I live in a rural and remote area where TAFE is the only option for further education. There are no other service providers in our isolated area. As it is we have to travel a 95 km round trip to attend TAFE when a limited number of courses are available. Less funding for TAFE will mean less courses and options for the local people.

There are many service providers offering a range of certificates and qualifications that I feel do not meet the required level of training. It seems that private colleges and other service providers can pop up out of the woodwork and hand out all sorts of qualifications for very little input by students.

The budget cuts have affected my local TAFE. The teaching hours and course hours have been reduced but course fees remain the same. There is a lot less money available to purchase resources for various courses. Teachers are known to buy resources for their classes out of their own pockets.

Classes at my local TAFE have been reduced. All apprentices doing Cert II Cert III and Cert IV have been put into the one class and this makes for a large group of students with still the one teacher. Other courses have had time reduced from 3 days per week to 2 days per week. Students are still paying the high course fees for less tuition time at TAFE.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because other less appropriate service providers are poaching students away from TAFE and this in turn reduces the effectiveness of TAFE. School is not for everyone and TAFE needs to be

available and affordable to those students wishing to undertake traineeships and apprenticeships as well as other course that will improve their employability.

Submitted by

Angela Mackin of Tullibigeal

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Cameron Marshall, of Parkhurst make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a Electricity Control Room Operator, in the postcode of 4701.

I am an Electrical Fitter/Mechanic (Systems Electrician) by trade and have worked in; high voltage electricity construction and maintenance, safety, apprentice managemant and electricity control room operator. I completed my apprenticeship in 1990 and have very positive memories from my time during TAFE. I was also an Apprentice Field Officer for 4 years and dealt with 3 TAFE colleges on a daily basis. Sad to see how it has changed, but still a very important part of training and assessment for apprenticeships. I still keep in contact with some of my TAFE teachers from all those years ago.

By providing an independent subject matter expert and assessor. Provide knowledge

to allow Australians to put this knowledge in the workplace and associated assessment, thus competing the competency based circle.

I have dealt with many adult apprentices where the TAFE system provided information and support required for adult learners to achieve their chosen career later in life.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...consistent information delivery and assessment. In the last 25 years TAFE colleges have suffered severe funding cuts, where once a willing learner could attend night classes to learn many varied courses, but alas this is no longer the case. TAFE provide an independent service, where private providers are focussed on numbers of students passing through their doors. Regional TAFE also means less travel and therefore costs associated with accommodation, meals and transport to capital cities.

Without doubt. TAFE itself has lowered its standards to compete with private providers.

I ask this enquiry; How many students actually fail subjects / course today as compared to 25 years ago? The reason, standards are lowered to give a false indication of the actual standard of students graduating. No learning institute wants to be known for its number of failed students, only successful ones. 25 years ago, if you did not meet the standard, then you failed and had to re-sit and successfully achieve the pre-determined standard before qualifying.

Quality and quantity of teachers due to poor pay and conditions, lack of or out-of-date resources for learning, unqualified staff or no staff at all to carry out on-the-job audits of apprentices, unqualified staff auditing apprentices and signing completions of apprentices.

Quality and quantity of teachers due to poor pay and conditions, lack of or out-of-date resources for learning, unqualified staff or no staff at all to carry out on-the-job audits of apprentices, unqualified staff auditing apprentices and signing completions of apprentices, poor building maintenance, etc.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦They are the centre of learning for all Australians. More funding, power and control needs to be given back to TAFE to deliver the shortcomings of the current way we educate. They provide an independent delivery and assessment of required outcomes, not desired outcomes we are currently experiencing. By allowing employers and private providers to control what is needed for us to be a learned nation once again. In my experience, very few employers fully understand competency based training and hence they are pushing for private providers to deliver the outcomes they want, not what industry and the nation requires. By increasing TAFE funding you can once again attract quality teachers, before they all retire and their knowledge is lost for generations. Resource TAFE with the equipment required to educate students in practice, not by referring to a paper / electronic reference that cannot be related to practically.

Submitted by

Cameron Marshall of Parkhurst

Friday 12th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Josh van Loenen, of South Mackay make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a TAFE trade teacher, in the postcode of 4740.

I was brought up to Mackay by CQIT from SA as I had skills that were needed. Those skills are now going to go to waste as I will not have any students for the areas I most commonly teach in. Years ago I got sick, during recovery I used TAFE (SA) to gain new skills and avoided the only alternative, a disability support pension. Both of my older children are TAFE trained and have good careers. We all pay tax, we can all contribute to society thanks to TAFE training.

Langbroek and Newman now want to pull the rug out from others who are in need of training, so the short term cut in spending will lead to long term fiscal and social problems. Keeping people employed through training and retraining, those improving their skills to gain higher qualifications, those who have life changes and need to take a

different route through their working life - this is what TAFE does and no 'here now gone tomorrow' politician has the right to tamper with this delicate social see-saw. Lose workers, lose productivity. Lose productivity, go broke. Simple business.

Without TAFE, albeit in another state, I would have been relegated to the pensioners scrap heap due to an inability to continue in my trades due to illness. Through a fully funded program, I received quality training from TAFE which allowed me back into the workforce, and make a difference in an area of great need.

People in regional areas do not have several similar employers to choose from. Most of the time, a job loss means the need for retraining to do a job that is new, without TAFE this would be impossible. The social fabric and the industry supporting regional areas will be the losers when TAFE goes, unemployment will rise, industry will decline. Industry also brings new people into the regions, mostly from other countries. These new workers must have their overseas qualifications matched to and converted to Australian qualifications, without TAFE how would they achieve that?

The standards of private RTO's are lower, a lot lower, than TAFE. Trades will be littered with incompetents, employers will be confused. To test this, I applied to a private RTO for a Cert IV in Training and Assessing. From TAFE it would have been 6 months part time. Ten minutes it took the private RTO to write up the certificate and process the paperwork - I didn't have to provide any relevant evidence (which I had) whatsoever to gain the qualification. Another private RTO gave me an Advanced Diploma in Engineering, they were Skills Tech contractors. I got the AD in a two and a half hour phone conversation, no difficult questions asked, in an engineering discipline I have never been involved with - the RTO gave me the wrong qualification. Mining companies are well known to now be screening applications from trades people to find out where they completed their off site training. Those that can show they did it at

TAFE go through for selection, anyone who shows training from a private RTO goes straight into the bin. BMA, Peabody, Rio Tinto and Anglo Coal all do the same. The Electrical Safety Office of Queensland has released a list of RTO's that cannot issue qualifications they will recognise. The electricians and refrigeration mechanics who spent four years training with these private RTOs must do it all again at TAFE, in their own time and at their own expense, as the training that was provided them by the private RTOs named by the ESO is/was so poor the workers are considered too dangerous to licence or employ.

My TAFE campus has lost at least 10 teachers. All but one of these teachers is now working for a private RTO, teaching the same thing to the same students they had at TAFE - all have a common complaint, that the standards are too low for them to be comfortable with. I personally know of some instances where departments have been closed down, the students given to a private RTO, then the private RTO employing the teachers who were forced to take redundancy from TAFE just to get staff numbers down. It turns out the Institute Director is a close friend of the person who owns the private RTO, anyone who cannot see a conflict of interests here is blind.

With the disappearance of the Department of Education and Training in the regions, who provided enormous assistance to TAFE by screening and referring students to TAFE, there is a double bite into the TAFE system. The demise of DET robs TAFE of a stream of students, while funding cuts at TAFE prevent the provision of quality training in key areas. This is not a case of TAFE sink or swim. This is a case of sabotage of a public system for no other reason than to line the pockets of unscrupulous private providers who care nothing for the students or for industry.

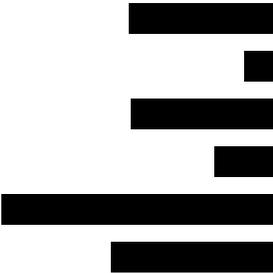
Newman (army), Langbroek (dentist) and Rice (lawyer) have no idea what damage they are doing to their areas of education, nor to industry, to regional areas, to trades

and to people. Cutting funding to save money is a false economy, the cost will be immediate and far greater. Sure, help us streamline the system, but don't go from the ground up. The lower tier is fine - efficient and effective as well as respected - start from the top and prune hard. Hand all funding over to the federal system, leave the states out of it completely, cut out the middle man too. More cost savings. Enable the system to improve and get leaner and meaner, do not cripple it then say it's too hard to fix.

Submitted by

Josh van Loenen of South Mackay

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, David Brady, of TOORMINA make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Health and Safety Assistant, in the postcode of 2453.

I studied at TAFE office skills and art, the art was an essential stress relief, the office skills have been invaluable in security and administration roles that I have performed in and I would not have excelled in several roles without these skills.

It was a place to gain skills without the restrictions of universities

I was working for a computer company as security, If I did not have the office and computer skills that I had gained at TAFE the task would have been extremely difficult. Not only could I do the job I was able to expand the role to become invaluable securing my position in an industry that does not grant job security

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I was able to get skills to assist in my employment history that the High Schools did not provide.

Unable to contact

I have found the courses becoming too expensive to attend for low income, I cannot give my children a chance to attend.

I have found very little information about the TAFE in Coffs Harbour, I usually hidden away.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦!
Many base skills are not taught at university and my experiences with them does not allow for lateral thinking and I have come to grief attempting to apply skills beyond the scope of the task, Usually the instructor was unable to grasp or appeared to be put off. This was encouraged while I was a TAFE

Submitted by

David Brady of TOORMINA

Friday 12th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Sean McCourt, of Sunbury make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Union organiser, in the postcode of 3429.

My two sons have went through TAFE to get the extra help and skills in gaining employment

TAFE is the gateway for most young adults in getting those skills in finding the right career.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...a job our no job having to move away from home and family.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦

Submitted by

Sean McCourt of Sunbury

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Cheryl Carrodus, of Hornsby make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a TAFE teacher, in the postcode of 2007.

I did not have the luxury of going to TAFE immediately after I finished school. My father wanted me to go to University. So I studied part time for many years, while I worked in a full time job. After finishing my course, I needed more practical experience, so I went to TAFE at night to do short courses, in instrumentation and Word processing. Both of my children have also been TAFE students, one doing hospitality, the other doing Animal care. I found that TAFE was a healing place for them. School can sometimes be very damaging for young people. They grew into more confident individuals and one of them is now studying to become a doctor.

I believe that TAFE contributes to the Australian workforce by giving people practical hands on skills, which are glossed over at Universities. Both of my children are hard

working individuals, possibly because of my role model. Not every one needs to go to University. It takes time to develop skills and many years of practice to become good at anything. The time factor has been taken out of education because of the cost.

My daughter always wanted to be a doctor or a veterinarian. She did not get the grades at school, so she decided to do year 12 all over again. The first day back at school, the Head mistress of the school said to her, "I am only taking you in, because I need the funding for this school". My daughter never set foot in that school again. She was totally gutted. She enrolled in Diploma of Animal care and studied that course. Her teachers were wonderful and when she completed her studies, she went on to study at University. She gained so much more that knowledge. Her self esteem grew and she was nurtured by her teacher on campus. My son on the other hand always wanted to work in hospitality. He graduated from Diploma in hospitality and was offered a full time job as soon as he qualified, after having worked part time in Accor while being a student. I am very proud of their contribution to the Australian workforce.

I live in the city of Sydney and am surrounded by many quality institutions. However I feel sorry for those people who live far away from the cities. They are given a raw deal as far as courses and education are concerned. If the shut down TAFE colleges, a lot of them would not get any chance of furthering their studies.

The immediate impact that the budget cuts have made on my TAFE has been to reduce the number of teachers that we have on classes. This makes it harder to teach skills. Are teaching has load has doubled. You cannot get around to individual students and show them how to use a microscope, and study blood films. Everyone of them has to be checked. The number of managers just grows exponentially. They do not teach,

bring no business to the colleges, but yet this is a growth area. Teachers struggle under their workload, but it is quite a strain, when you want to fo the best.

Cuts to our budgets mean the students don't get the quality training they had before.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because a job badly done means it costs twice as much to ix in the future, If one of my students makes a mistake when cross matching , the result could be fatal. Similarly, students in the building industry can make a mistake, when doing electrical wiring, or laying bricks, means the cost to the community is greater.

Submitted by

Cheryl Carrodus of Hornsby

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, David Bartolo, of Haberfield make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2045.

I have taught at both TAFE and university, and many of my students at both have attended the other type of Institution - they invariably say that the two forms complement each other, with TAFE providing the more practical and useful education.

TAFE provides a relevant and targeted training regime that directly relates to the industries it serves. Contrary to current Government opinion, it is an extremely useful way to spend taxpayers money, one that achieves measurable returns. Private providers can not compete with TAFE for quality and value for money.

My ex brother in law left school early because he wasn't ready to study. When he returned to TAFE to do the Tertiary Preparation Certificate as a mature student, he

topped the state and is now a lawyer.

In regional areas, TAFE provides more than just education and training - it can be a hub for the community.

Students are always providing anecdotes about how they have felt ripped off by private colleges, and feel that the value of TAFE is obvious.

Teachers are working harder, expected to do more, everyone is worn out, not as many support services, no marketing for courses.

Probably the most significant impact has been the impact on morale.

The TAFE system in Australia is world class, and respected internationally. Our students have always been very well received by industry. Over the years, I have seen the content of courses diluted, and the expectation on teachers increased to the point of almost absurdity.

Submitted by

David Bartolo of Haberfield

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Alan Scott, of Kings Langley make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I, Alan Scott, of Kings Langley make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 53 years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2165. I teach High School history in a low SES area and have so for the last ten years. Before this position, I spent fourteen years in Corporate Training in the Telecommunications and Finance industries. Many of my students do not see University as an option and so they depend on TAFE courses to gain the skills needed to gain a good job in a competitive job market. Already we have students who have difficulty in completing the High School Certificate and are currently taking TAFE courses instead which are aimed at specific jobs or trades. Already students who would be better served in doing TAFE courses are being forced to do University entry courses such as History because there are no more positions available in the limited courses that are offered. This lack of choice

forces them to attempt a course that they are not capable or interested in completing which leads to a cycle of failure which once started is difficult to change the longer it continues.

TAFE courses my students are currently doing are for most, the only option open for them to gain a steady and productive job. The current school curriculum as aimed at teaching students basic skills that fall short of most work positions. The business skills need in the work place are best addressed by TAFE. As a Corporate Trainer for fourteen years I spent lots of time and company money training staff on how to do their job. One reason I am now a teacher is that since the training levy ended companies have chosen to downsize or close their training departments and rather have external providers design and deliver the training. The natural choice to take the place of the redundant training departments is TAFE. If the TAFE cannot meet this demand then the companies will be forced to bring in migrant workers who have been trained by overseas TAFEs. If this occurs we will have a growing unskilled unemployable generation while companies struggle under a shortage of skilled labour.

My wife Athela an Malaysian emigrant found it difficult to gain work in Australia even though she had a HR diploma and management experience in Malaysia. Her diploma was not recognised here and so she had to obtain a local diploma from Ryde TAFE to be competitive. She began a diploma in Tourism. In her second year her lecturer fell ill and was told the course would be postponed till next year when a replacement was found. The following year the funding had been cut and that her one remain course would not be offered and so her diploma was granted after 18 months of study I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it provides an essential role in allowing people to find gainful and productive employment in a sector of the workforce that Universities and schools cannot address. This sector is also the largest sector of the workforce and we cannot depend on business to train their own staff or private colleges to provide the necessary quality. TAFE is the most important

area of Education if Australia is to have a healthy economy and active workforce.

Submitted by

Alan Scott of Kings Langley

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Gwen Stapleton, of Bunbury make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

In 1990, I was a single parent with three young kids trying to survive on a single-parent pension. I completed a FREE New Opportunities for Women TAFE course that led to my completing a TAFE Certificate in Business Studies. By that stage I had begun to find my self-confidence and, following a chat with a TAFE Career advisor, set out to realise my ambition to complete a degree and become an English Teacher.

I have been a High School English Teacher for the past thirteen years and love my job. Part of my job entails preparing my students to enter the world beyond school. For many of them TAFE is the preferred option as it gives them the chance to engage in further study, leading to their career of choice, or to prepare for and complete an apprenticeship.

TAFE is the most important institution in our education system, apart from high schools. It is absolute insanity to consider taking this avenue of further education away from students, young and old. Australia has become a country where the most

deserving of our assistance is considered a burden on society. We hear about sanctions on single parents and unemployed people and how they should be working. Well, how about giving them the means of accessing assistance to get them out of their financially desperate situation and the means of upgrading skills and further opportunities for education through the TAFE Education System?

These courses should be a right, with no associated costs, not a further financial burden to the less fortunate of our citizens. Just imagine what a difference it would make to the lives of single - parents if they could go to university, after completing a TAFE course that prepares them for that journey. What message would their children get from that journey? What difference would that make to the quality of all their lives? How might that influence other single-parents who see the results of these endeavours?

Privatising the TAFE system will result in students becoming 'clients' with no means of assessing the qualifications or relevance of the deliverers of the courses until it is too late. The focus on private suppliers of education is on making a profit so fees will bear no relevance to the ability of the client to pay for the course.

The new Australian Curriculum has highlighted the importance of high school students achieving Certificate III and Certificate IV levels by the time they leave high school, in order to meet the future needs of industry and other services in Australia.

It makes absolutely no sense that at a time when TAFE is the best means of training and already has the infrastructure in place, including trained lecturers, that there should be a wave of state budget cuts and underfunding of courses, rising student fees and campuses closing. This demonstrates a total lack of foresight and understanding of the needs of existing students and students of the future on the part of elected representatives whose job it is to represent the needs of their constituents.

More support, further development of resources, the introduction of new and innovative courses that meet the needs of the 21st Century technological age, courses that assist single parents to have an opportunity to have a career (as I did) - all of this

is what should be happening with the TAFE system.

Wake up, before it is too late. Don't destroy what has taken so many years to establish by making a decision that will cause us to hang our head in shame at our stupidity in years to come.

Sincerely

Gwen Stapleton

Submitted by

Gwen Stapleton of Bunbury

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Martha Turner, of Tyalgum make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2484.

I have been teaching for nearly 30 years and have worked for TAFE NSW for 19 years. I and many of my family members have a variety of qualifications through TAFE NSW, some vocational, some for staff development.

My husband started his working life with a trade certificate as a linotype mechanic, later a certificate in pest control and finally a certificate in horticulture, all through TAFE NSW. He has worked in all three industries. He has, for more than a decade, worked voluntarily with the Rural Fire Service as a trainer and assessor and has his Certificate IV in Training and Assessment from OTEN.

As a TAFE teacher, I also have the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment through

TAFE. Both my husband and I have a current Senior First Aid Certificate through TAFE NSW; I am a first aid officer at my local campus and my husband is a martial arts black belt and requires first aid qualifications to train junior belts.

Our youngest child obtained both RSA and RCG qualifications (through TAFE NSW) after finishing the HSC and this has resulted in her having continuous work whilst studying at university.

In other words, TAFE has played an enormously important role in our lives.

I work in "second chance" education, with students who have not completed high school. Our role has always been to re-engage students with the formal learning process and inspire them to reach their full potential. We embed goal setting and careers counselling in most of our programs and focus on the development of the literacy, numeracy and employability skills the students need in order to continue their learning journey. Our faculty has strong links and communication with vocational faculties within TAFE and also with local universities; students find they can easily develop a career pathway that suits their individual goals.

There are many examples of how TAFE has provided individuals with a second chance; the following five case studies are examples from my personal experience with these students:

1. M first enrolled to study a Cert II course at Murwillumbah TAFE as a 16 year old. She had a serious marijuana dependency and suffered a nervous breakdown partway through the first semester of this one year long course. M re-enrolled in the same course the following year, after a stint in hospital. She was nearly finished (only about 4 weeks to go) when she again showed signs of depression and potential breakdown.

She had convinced herself she was useless and couldn't finish anything. I spent a long time with her, talking to her about how much she had achieved. M finished her course on time, obtained her certificate, worked for a little while, then came back to us and enrolled in Cert IV in Tertiary Preparation, our HSC equivalent course. During this time, M admitted to me that part of her problem with mental health stemmed from the fact she had been sexually abused by her father from the age of 13.

M completed half of Cert IV in Tertiary Preparation at our campus, then moved away from the area and transferred to another campus to complete the course. I found out later that she had achieved high enough scores in her course to be accepted into university; she was described as a lovely, competent and confident young woman.

2. J absolutely hated school and enrolled at Murwillumbah Campus, with great reluctance, into a Cert I literacy / numeracy course. After 12 months, she applied to do our Cert II course, completed this two semester course without difficulty, then enrolled in Cert IV in Tertiary Preparation. J gained entry to university, where she enrolled to study teaching. She looked back on her 15 year old self with great amusement, but openly acknowledged that without TAFE this change would probably not have occurred.

3. G is a young mother with a physical disability who had not completed high school and suffered considerable financial hardship. Across 12 months, she studied Cert IV in Tertiary Preparation, gaining a result that put her in the top 10 students in the state (not top 10%, but top 10) and is currently enrolled at university studying a double degree.

4. R, a young single mother of two, had experienced years of domestic violence. She was tired of bar work and wanted to give her children a better future. She also enrolled in Cert IV in Tertiary Preparation, also came in the top 10 in the state and is currently

studying to become a teacher.

5. C, another young single mother from an abusive relationship and suffering financial hardship, initially enrolled in a Cert II in Career Education for Women, completed this course and moved into Cert IV in Tertiary Preparation. After completing this qualification, C was accepted into university, achieved exceptional results and was awarded an academic scholarship. She now works for a local council.

We live in a regional area. TAFE is not the only tertiary provider in this area; there are a number of private providers, however, TAFE is the largest and best established provider in the area.

Our TAFE colleges have already cut courses due to funding reductions, including Business Administration and IT.

We are doing our best to avoid cutting services, but it is becoming increasingly difficult. Part of the problem is that we pride ourselves on high quality individualised service to our learners, which is very time consuming.

There has been a definite increase in poorly regulated private colleges with lower standards than TAFE.

For example:

1. We originally obtained our first aid qualifications through a private provider. When we renewed these qualifications, the training was of such poor quality, so haphazard, we were determined never to deal with this provider again. We have since updated the Senior First Aid qualifications through TAFE NSW and have found the training to be far superior to the private provider.

2. We know of a young man who had enormous difficulty passing a Cert II in basic firefighting due to his literacy skills. In fact, he needed a scribe to complete the final assessment for this course. Through a local private provider, this same young man has obtained the Cert IV in Training and Assessment (from scratch). He managed to complete the course in 3 weeks. Everyone I know who has done this course has taken months to complete it, even with some RPL, as the course is very comprehensive.

Funding cuts have had the following effects on our local campus:

- many job losses
- loss of expert staff as a result of these job losses
- courses have been cut in several different sections
- support service personnel are being told to look for income sources
- student fees have increased significantly for many courses, some have to be run commercially
- low morale; campuses have to work harder to maintain morale in both staff and students (as students worry about their future choices)
- the community is concerned the campus will close in the near future

The state government's significant funding cuts have impacted enormously on the TAFE system. In our faculty across most campuses, due to ongoing funding cuts, we

no longer offer literacy / numeracy classes and a number of our other courses are at risk of not being funded in future. For example, the Cert IV in Tertiary Preparation is under serious threat. Some of our students are experiencing significant difficulty paying their course fees. Also, support for students with disabilities, including mental health problems, becomes increasingly difficult to access as our support staff are stretched to the limit.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because in my personal experience across nearly 30 years of teaching, TAFE provides the disempowered, disadvantaged and disengaged with life-changing opportunities. This type of service must be non-profit; it cannot be effectively provided by an organisation that seeks to make a profit from education and treats students as customers where the number of completions is more important than the quality of the education received and the opportunities provided.

Submitted by

Martha Turner of Tyalgum

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Megan Johnson, of bayswater make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 36 years old and currently studying to become a secondary school teacher. After screwing around through my secondary education I finished with a TER that was not going to get me into any Uni, so I went to work and traveled. I returned to Australia with the dream of going to Uni but the only way it was going to happen was by starting out at TAFE. So I did a liberal arts course, after one year of that I applied to Uni and was accepted into a Bachelor of Social Science. Without TAFE I would not have had the chance to do further study at Uni, or to become a teacher. TAFE is important if you are going to get people that slip through the cracks. To expect all kids to succeed at high school and go on to Uni ignores the many people that have problems throughout their schooling. TAFE gives people like myself the chance to make up for their mistakes. If you want a well educated work force, you need to support the institutions that provide it.

Submitted by

Megan Johnson of bayswater

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Clive Ettia, of Lockridge make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Electronic Technician, in the postcode of 6054.

TAFE was the absolute crucial difference in my education potential, as a son a poor immigrated family I couldn't afford university but needed to get a tertiary education. Throught AUSTUDY which was an appauling stipend to pay for the TAFE fees, books and living expenses ie. rent, utilities and food, I graduated an associate diploma of electronic engineering. The TAFE fees at that time were sufficiently low and with the help of SFSS which to this day I am still paying off I managed to somehow graduate, earn enough work experience and become an official electronic technician.

I see now as I research for my daughters education that TAFE fees are absolutely OUTRAGEOUS, she will never be able to afford them and I am consoled only by the fact that we have a PM that has education as her priority and that a Labor government is in power for now.

TAFE is the only decent attempt at bridging the gap between compulsory school and industry and it needs to be further integrated fully as an established gradient into the workforce, it is a half-done but a well done in my professional opinion.

It was my only chance actually and it was something I had to work damn hard at even with a 4yr Arts scholarship during high school and an awarded Lion's Club scholarship.

I've always lived in the city and am lucky for that.

TAFE costs a lot more than I remember even accounting for inflation.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because of the reasons I have said already above.

The LNP and any form of such are well known to me, my father told me the stories of when he came to Australia in the 60s and what the Liberals were doing and the Union movement I am well educated in history of politics in Australia and know who means well for who.

Submitted by

Clive Ettia of Lockridge

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Ralph Hunt, of Armidale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2350.

My son, Peter, is doing Industrial Design at Newcastle TAFE. The teachers are fantastic. They have inspired and encouraged the students in an industrially focused and creative course. It is an exciting course that I would love to have done. It is cutting-edge because the teachers are working in the industry. Recent cuts of finance have seriously restricted the ability of TAFE to sustain this essential course (graduates have a very high employment rate).

The students leave this course fully functional in industry. They are fully educated in the latest skills in design. This is the future of Australian industry!

Peter had a poor HSC result. He worked for 2 years as a "Dish Pig" and barista.

Getting into TAFE has given him a great objective in life and he is embracing it enthusiastically.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means that many young people get a chance in life which would not exist without TAFE.

No

The budget cuts have reduced the hours of teaching that Peter and his classmates get drastically. They now do most work on their own without direct teaching.

TAFE used to be a central part of regional education and community. It can no longer offer recreational courses and the latest cuts have damaged TAFE's ability to create jobs and careers.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because our young people, like my son, need quality education and training to get the jobs that will drive Australia through this century.â€¦

Submitted by

Ralph Hunt of Armidale

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Susanne Kent, of Mt Gravatt east make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a , in the postcode of 4122.

We pulled my son out of high school after year 9 and sent him to tafe because he wanted to do electrical so instead of wasting time on the subjects at school that didn't contribute to being an electrician he finished his senior certificate doing years 11 and 12 at tafe. It was the best decision as parents we have ever made. He has never looked back, it would have been a complete waste of time keeping him at high school for those last two years.

It helped him to deal with older people and never became bored with anything, the pressure was off because he didn't have to sit for an OP score then at the end of senior year think about what he had to do. He had finished his pre-vocational and could apply for a job straight away, as if he had done senior at school he would still have to do his prevo

before applying for a job.

Even now there are people I know who have bought ladies from Asian countries and married them and they tell me they are going to tafe to learn English and the tafe are paying for their child care so they can learn English. There are also people I have meet that come to Australia to work that have to go to tafe to upgrade their trade to work in this country,we are a country that are very giving but if our trades go down the tubes because we have cut out to much we will become like a third world country that every thing is not done to regulations it will lead to no regulations no safety and a bunch of drop kicks that don't care about anything,we should be opening up more tafes to give those people who don't want to go to university a better chance at a good trade.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Not every one can afford private institutions and to deprive another person of wanting to learn to better themselves is criminal,what makes one person better than the next.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the future of our country depends on how well educated our trades people are for years we have been saying we have skill shortages in this country and now we want to take away the only thing which is the only thing that makes this country stand out from every other country as we pride our selves on doing things that are the rite way and not the wrong way as for as standards go.

Submitted by

Susanne Kent of Mt Gravatt east

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Bobbie Oliver, of North Perth make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I have not studied at TAFE, but as a researcher who has an interest in apprenticeship training in WA I appreciate the role that TAFE plays in training skilled workers in this state and elsewhere in Australia. I am deeply concerned that Australia has a recurring problem where employers apparently cannot get enough skilled labour. Cuts to TAFE will make this problem worse and we will become more dependent upon overseas labour, in the form of either temporary or permanent immigrants. I believe that cuts to TAFE will result in fewer opportunities for people seeking training to gain professional skills. I believe, too, that the government has a responsibility to keep TAFE fees low so that courses are commercially viable for people (especially young people) who are employed on low wages while undergoing their training. At one time, employers bore the cost of training apprentices; today, with increasing privatisation of industry, the cost of training is largely borne by the trainee. This may be unavoidable, but I urge the government to invest in training by keeping costs as low as possible and maintaining

choice in the number of types of training courses available.

Submitted by

Bobbie Oliver of North Perth

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Dimce Krstevski, of Wolli Creek make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a onemploed, in the postcode of 2205.

Das not metta my age I like to be student and study on the TAFE becouse it change the live.educated

educated working people is smarter sociaety has benefit and working klase is more stronga.

yes

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means... you grabing better future.

yes

lot of people have not chance to study if the increase of fees.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€if TAFE is safe the future for people is more brither.

Submitted by

Dimce Krstevski of Wolli Creek

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Natasha Kepert, of Bassendean make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Town Planner, in the postcode of 6054.

I have studied many courses at TAFE over the years, more "interest" courses in the evenings than "vocational" courses during the day.

Over the years I studied courses including: Indonesian and Italian languages, yoga, feldenkrais, Swedish and Chinese massage, and silver jewellery making, as well as numerous computer courses (Word, Excel, Access, internet, etc).

I completed a BA at UWA in 1994. To my surprise, with a bachelor of English alone, I was basically unemployable. I went to as many TAFE courses as I could for computing, and this enabled me to start my full time working life. If it had not been for TAFE giving me practical skills where the university failed to do so, I do not know how

long it would have taken me to find a job.

Over the years I have done a wide range of courses, for health and for general interest. In particular, I started studying languages (Italian and Indonesian) quite seriously. I was unable to continue studying Italian at university because the course format at the time (daily attendance for 1 hour a day) was extremely difficult for me to attend. So I started studying at TAFE and to my surprise found it far more practical than the university course and much more effective at being able to speak the language. I then went on to study Indonesian, for 5 years. I completed Certificate IV and was intending to pursue the Translators Certificate over a few years but budget cuts to TAFE meant the end of Indonesian courses above the basic level. This was a real shame on many levels. Over the years studying Indonesian, people in the classes had formed strong friendship networks and met for Indonesian culture and language activities outside the class. Almost everyone in the classes had full time jobs, so evenings were the only time we could study, and it says something for how good the courses were that people were motivated enough to keep attending for many years. Some of my classmates had businesses in Indonesia, or were doing aid work, or travelling there. It's crazy, when the Government supposedly wants to encourage Asian languages (as they say every so often before promptly forgetting about it) to do away with this magnificent opportunity for ADULT learners to learn a language. The people in the class were ALREADY interested in Indonesia, they weren't school students being forced to learn it. Considering the importance of the Australian-Indonesian relationship, cutting funding to TAFE was absolutely crazy, but hey what can we do?

When I started studying Indonesian, we had 6 hours a week (two evenings per week) for a whole semester - 12 weeks I think (?). It was ridiculously cheap, I think it worked out to only just over \$1 an hour for someone on a health care card. Over the years, this got cut and cut and cut. We went down to one evening a week. Then the courses

stopped being offered locally at all (Rossmoyne SHS campus) and we had to go to Perth Central TAFE. Then the evening classes were cut and the course became 6 Saturday mornings per semester. The Translators course was 20 units you had to work your way through - only 2 were offered in any semester. Then this too disappeared. I wanted to go back to study Indonesian but the only option was university. I did an entrance test - from all that TAFE, I was judged equivalent to the final semester of a Bachelor of LOTE (Indonesian) degree. But to complete one semester at university would have cost me something crazy, I think well over \$3000, and I could not get a recognized qualification from it.

So - a shame, but just think how many people you have lost from studying languages by getting rid of TAFE courses.

The health subjects I studied over the years were always extremely enjoyable and certainly have contributed to my health. While you can find other similar courses elsewhere (nowadays), I always appreciated being able to enroll through TAFE. It was easy to find information about courses, to know when courses would be on and the fees were accessible.

I really hope that the Australian Government does not take short sighted decisions which will further rip the heart out of TAFE.

I think I have largely covered this above. However, where TAFE is particularly great (better than universities) is that it is more accessible to people who have jobs or who can't attend courses Mon-Fri 9-5.

It's also great for when you want to learn a very particular skill or set of skills (particularly to boost your general employability, while keeping your job) and you can

do this in a way that fits in with your life.

TAFE language courses WERE unbelievably good and I'm sure have contributed enormously to tolerance in our society, as well as a lot of Australians being able to go overseas and find their way in other countries / cultures. (This is not a small thing, this is not just a recreational "have a nice holiday" thing, this contributes to ongoing relationships with other countries and cultures).

If I hadn't had TAFE after I finished university, I would have had no skills to make me employable at all. It was only when I finished university (being naÃve little 21 year old) that I found out what I had learned was not useful in the real world, and I'd have to get some real skills and quick.

I haven't attended TAFE now for many years because I know they no longer offer courses which are of value to me. I know that there are so few courses left on offer, that I will have to travel a great distance to do anything, it is no longer a matter of dropping down to the local high school in the evening. So, to be honest, I have not actually paid much attention to my local TAFE for quite a while.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is absolutely crazy to expect we can have an educated society without it. We need a sector which offers "packages" NOT tied to a degree, but with proper recognition. We need education offered at times and places convenient to adults who have jobs or other responsibilities, but still have an interest in and motivation to educate themselves and contribute to our society further.

Submitted by

Natasha Kepert of Bassendean

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Jude Cooke, of Katoomba make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a educator, in the postcode of 2770.

Having had 7 children as a single income family, I knew to escape the poverty trap I needed to get qualified. TAFE had also been the place that my husband had achieved his qualifications including literacy support, general education and a range of trade tickets. My return to study after a very long break was possible due to the flexibility of TAFE in offering evening courses with excellent teachers with high levels of industry experience and adult education expertise. Over a decade I zigzagged through the TAFE and university systems achieving a range of qualifications, skill sets, certificates through to post graduate qualifications. Without access to affordable supported education and training I would not have been able to escape the poverty trap which would have impacted not just on me but my family and their capacity to contribute to the economy and society.

TAFE has been able to provide robust education and training. In recent times there has been pressure to strip that back as funding pressures have been applied to make TAFE more competitive. In order for TAFE to maintain its valuable contributions to a smart and strong Australian workforce it must keep focussed on delivering the best education and training rather than prioritising profit. Learning that is contextualised having breadth and depth in a well resourced environment with expert support in well designed and executed programs that facilitate and promote pathways will contribute to a smart and strong workforce, economy and society.

As above my own experience and my husbands. Over the years scores of people, women who like me have returned to learning, young people who have not fitted often because of multiple strands of disadvantage leading to dysfunction, such as Andrew who recently attained his MBA, or Damien who had been on the wrong side of the law, abused drugs, found himself isolated and homeless, however through a series of appropriate supported programs pathwayed into University completing his degree and transforming his life.

My own experience would not have been possible without having courses and services available at my local TAFE college. Geographic location now only contributes to improved access but in developing important roles in local communities and with industry.

This week I have encountered two very concerning experiences with a new RTO, Evocca College, around the corner from Mt Druitt TAFE. A prospective student who had done engagement programs through TAFE Outreach and was to do a preparatory pathway to Community services programs that builds strong foundation skills for those going on to higher level qualifications, informed Outreach she had been accepted to do the Diploma in Community Services with Evocca College and have her qualification by

the end of the year. This is very worrying as she did not have the prerequisite skills and knowledge to do the Cert IV let alone the Diploma. The next day a concerned mother informed me the same RTO had accepted her intellectually disabled daughter into a Diploma in Business Services which she knew to be well beyond her capability.

Pathways have become increasingly difficult as lower level courses are dropped with colleges attempting to meet demands for higher level qualifications. A Pathways to Aged Care Program at Mt Druitt has traditionally fed into a CIII at the college but students will now be required to travel further afield, for some this will make it impossible. My institute has lost 4 Adult literacy Officers that played vital roles in promoting literacy though local communities including training Volunteer Literacy tutors, surely the volunteers are effective in reducing costs in building adult literacy? Beauty and Outdoor Recreation have been made inaccessible with funding withdrawn and fees jumping from hundreds of dollars to thousands of dollars. Our institute promotes buy now pay later online, unethical in my humble opinion especially when the careers students are being qualified for are not highly paid. Starting your lowly paid working life with a debt burden would not seem to be a good model for a healthy economy or society.

As a TAFE employee I have witnessed cuts by stealth and practices of deceit that are divisive for staff and students. Reviews are not regarded to be carried out with integrity, personnel who are not impartial making predictable decisions on poor evidence and based on tokenistic insincere insulting consultation. Staff are pitted against each other. Students are unsure whether they will be able to achieve their study goals as they hear of cuts. Community and local industry partners are very concerned about what the cuts will mean to them.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because apart from

my personal experience and what I have witnessed as part of Adult Ed system in 2 decades, history tells us how important education is in achieving social justice and a strong healthy society and economy. Working in a very disadvantaged area I see the results of quick fix shallow training that people get drafted through. The results being lots of people with many qualifications no employment, these people tend to be angry, resentful and cynical about further education and training. That is why TAFE is important. Well funded quality vocational education and training with appropriate support services is essential particularly for a country that is prosperous, it is the time to be investing in education for the betterment of society.

Submitted by

Jude Cooke of Katoomba

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Mark Gaszman, of Enmore make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Customer Service Officer, in the postcode of 2042.

After a considerable period of unemployment, Centrelink funded me to attend TAFE and gain my Certificate IV in Assessment and Workplace Training. This qualification enabled me to find employment with the Australian Public Service and I haven't looked back since,

TAFE must be one of the most cost-effective ways of reskilling available and leads to a more qualified, and therefore nimble, workforce,

Submitted by

Mark Gaszman of Enmore

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Sage Durham, of Holland make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Computer tech, in the postcode of 4121.

I am currently studying Certificate III Information Technology at Southbank Tafe. I am very much enjoying the experience and have learnt alot thanks to the great online teaching facilities and very well looked after classroom facilities. Although i did think the course price was quite expensive! Even the concessional price seemed a bit out of the average concessional price range.

Tafe courses are quite hands on and direct - teaching you skills that are valid and up to date in todays industries.

I have been made redundant last year and have really struggled with my health. This Tafe course has given me renewed hope and allowed me to pursue a new and

hopefully prosperous career in IT!

Mareeba Environmental College - Mareeba, FNQ.

Increase in course costs.

Increase of fees

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because I am currently studying a cert III in IT at Southbank Tafe. I do believe that Tafe is a corner stone of education in Australia for Australians and overseas students. Tafe is also a very important stepping stone for the less fortunate - a way out of poverty and becoming useful and a prosperous member of society - thus going from leeching to contributing and creating. It is very very important that governments support this to their fullest as if TAFE was not here in the future - many people would not be given a positive opportunity in life.

Submitted by

Sage Durham of Holland

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Donna McGregor, of Montmorency make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Education Support Staff, in the postcode of 3094.

My 19 yo son is currently attending TAFE. TAFE has allowed him to study Graphic Design which he has always wanted to do. At the end of VCE his ATAR was lower than he'd hoped as he suffers mild dyslexia. He would not have had the opportunity to do Graphic Design without TAFE.

TAFE gives opportunities to Australian's that are more hands on people as opposed to more academic people. People who don't attain ATAR scores to gain Uni entry need opportunities to train in fields that are suited to them. TAFE provides these opportunities. If we lose TAFE we will have a gap in our Education system.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Private colleges are a business and concerned with gaining enrolments and not necessarily concerned with the students having improved work opportunities.

Yes, in 2012 my sons Graphic Design course was 4 days/week and cost me \$2500. In 2013 he only has classes 2 days/week and cost \$7000.

There appear to fewer classes being offered to students. My son often complains that there are no office staff to ask questions and there was very little information at start of the year (possibly because there were very few staff to administer the courses).

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE provides further education opportunities to a sector of the community that are not suited to University. Hands on people need a hands on approach to education. TAFE is crucial to the employment prospects of people for whom the Academic assessment system is not suited. Our community need TAFE and our Governments should continue to fund TAFE rather than closing them down, losing the teachers and selling off the assets, only to realise we need this type of education and then having to try and rebuild. Please save our TAFE colleges and get them working well again.

Submitted by

Donna McGregor of Montmorency

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Leigh Beshara, of MORPHETTVILLE make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Marine Engineer, in the postcode of 5000.

I am finishing off my education at the AMC in Launceston. I started out as a fitter and machinist and completed my academic studies for that trade at TAFE. I also hope to go on from here and study electronics at TAFE as it is a large part of my industry now and we're given very little training in this area.

TAFE is essential for our education system. It is many things to many different people but I see it contributing the most in trade training, in bridging the gap between school and uni for those who have the skill but didn't apply themselves in high school. I think it is an important institution for supporting ongoing education for people in the workforce and for re-training those of us who have been unlucky enough to lose our jobs later on in life and who need to be re-trained to become employable again in a job that can

offer decent pay and dignity.

TAFE started me out on this path. I was working in petrol station selling fuel and milk and bread for a very low wage. I fell into my apprenticeship and was re-introduced to the education system via my trade training at the Mt Gravatt campus in Qld. This set the foundation for me to complete my training and then to go and study further to become a marine engineer. The first part of my marine engineer training was completed at the Hunter Institute of TAFE in NSW. I don't know what I'd be doing if I hadn't have gone down this path but TAFE allowed me to progress to where I am today and I'm positive that I wouldn't be earning the money I now earn or have the opportunities that I have if it wasn't for TAFE.

I don't live in a regional area.

I haven't had anything to do with any of these private colleges but I've seen some very concerning evidence in the media about these colleges. I'm unsure as to what is really happening but if even half of what I've seen in the media is true, then we've got a serious problem.

Being at the AMC, I can't talk as to how budget cuts have affected any TAFE.

I think there is a place for private colleges in our education system but we should be maintaining a very strong foundation for our community with government funded TAFE. We run the risk disadvantaging large parts of our community if we fail to support TAFE.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because I think every Australian, whether they use it or not, understands the need for a strong TAFE.

TAFE can be a life line for some, a great start for others and a great way for many of us to add to and upgrade our existing skills. I plan to use TAFE again in the near future and consider it vital that this institution is maintained.

Submitted by

Leigh Beshara of MORPHETTVILLE

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Pierre Rosso, of Paradise make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a OPS2, in the postcode of 5063.

Once in Australia to undergo my course of studies in Tourism, I enjoyed very much my time at local TAFE, appreciating the professionalism and the warm environment they provided to all of us, overseas students. Here I passed my IELTS test and developed my own skills until I acquired my diploma. Although I didn't use it for my career path, I will always remember that challenging period, full of precious tips, recommendations and encouragement from academic and administrative staff from TAFE. I forged even bonds that last till now, twelve years after.

TAFE is a smart and unique concept, hardly to be found in European academic setting. I was forty years of age when I joined my class at TAFE, however I never felt discriminated/marginalized because of my age or my background, nor by staff or

teachers. It's a fostering environment for those willing to learn, without the fuss of being at uni.

Whatever I learned at TAFE - whether OHS principles rather than working on excel spreadsheets- I utilized later on in my new career path. Actually I'm still in the process to gain RPL in my own area/industry on a different campus, yet feeling the same vibe as a decade ago!

I live in a capital city, with plenty of options. I just regard TAFE and its staff as the best possible mix of academic learning and personal growth, whether it applies to a teen age or a mature student. If cuts of funding will occur, it will be a huge loss for the Australian education system as a whole.

Yes, as I noticed already twelve years ago. But none can match the TAFE standards.

I'm just hearing about these cuts, and am terrified of disastrous effects they might have on students.

I've not experienced any impact of these cuts, as I work full time now.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because I personally got to know different personnel employed at various TAFE campuses, and they all showed commitment and pride of their role and value for the society as a whole.

Submitted by

Pierre Rosso of Paradise

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Mary Tahere Fanaeian, of Mount Annan make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a TAFE teacher, in the postcode of 2567.

During the past twenty years that I have worked in TAFE as a P/T teacher, I have taught so many people who are now, working as teachers, trades persons, computer experts, psychologists, engineers, nurses, and the list goes on and on.

The courses in TAFE open a window of hope to who ever has been deprived of education. They could be young people who have dropped out of school system and desire to go back to education, or mothers whose children are at an age that they feel they can retrain themselves and develop the necessary skills for work or the people laid off work due to harsh economic condition in the world who wish to have a change of career. TAFE is the beacon of hope for the community and assists people to reach their gold, which in tern allows Australia to be proud of its skilful people and a

prosperous nation.

I have tens and hundreds stories. Sana, a TAFE IT teacher started in Campbelltown TAFE as a student. She did her Tertiary Preparation Course. She went next door to UWS and got her degree and for many years she has been our colleague. Any one who enrolls to our per-vocational courses has a story as to why and how s/he has missed out of schooling and each one of our graduates is an active member of community who appreciates the second chance given to them and try to repay the society.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means there is a chance to catch up with the time lost. I live in Camden and work in Campbelltown TAFE and Miller and Liverpool. People in these areas have very high regard for TAFE and count on the availability of its courses. Campbelltown TAFE covers areas down south such as Picton, Bargo, the Oaks and the huge city of Campbelltown itself. Young people are very disappointed that we have lost art courses. There is a big concern that because of the cuts in budget people lose their hope in educating themselves and getting a job and ameliorating their life. This disappointment could lead to further depression, higher mental problems and even higher rate of suicide or crime.

It is enough if you go on line and type the name of a course and there will be many providers that will provide you with certificates and diplomas on line, and all they care about is getting money from you and providing you with a certificate in a matter of no time. That is because they are not driven by excellence in education as TAFE strives to. Our students and apprentices come out of TAFE courses proud of the knowledge and skills they have learnt and in turn, they provide an honest and thorough service to the community .

Because of the budget cuts I have witnessed that each time a full time teacher has retired, the position has been filled in by a part timer and the full time jobs are getting more and more scarce. I have been working in pre-vocational section of Campbelltown TAFE for the past 19 years and this year for the first time I was not offered any teaching work hours in my section, just because of the cuts Mr O'Farrell has brought on us. We were running successful Career Education for Women course and it had to be reduced. Our youth classes were closed.

The Individual Learning Centre hours were reduces. In HSC and TPC courses, less subjects were offered. With It, we will have less students as the fees will be increased and the same goes with Engineering courses that have already been cut out.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because our community counts on TAFE and because it provides the best education and trade training. The measure of prosperity and well management of the resources in a country is directly related to the amount of importance a country puts on educating its people. It is shameful to hear they announce 1.8 billion dollar cut to education and the next day the state treasurer 'coincidentally' finds a billion dollar unaccounted money in his budget and he does not put it back to where it belongs, education.

Submitted by

Mary Tahere Fanaeian of Mount Annan

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Brian Marthick, of North Wollongong make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a educator, in the postcode of 2500.

TAFE has provided an opportunity for me to gain qualifications in my early career. It has also allow me to attend several self-development programmes over the years.

It is the 'university' of the people. It allows for so many courses than can only enrich people who attend there. Not everyone can go to university but having TAFE providing so many different courses allow for so many people to be better educated.

My partner was able to gain qualifications when he migrated to Australia. TAFE provided that and set him on his way.

TAFE has already been affected. We have such wonderful faculties, however staff are

not being respected. There is no career path for them. Standards of teaching will drop.

This and outsourcing are resulting in a dumbing down of the usual course. For example the ESL departments of TAFE FNQ and James Cook Uni (Cairns) are now private. There will be no passion in the teaching as their was before.

Yes Budget cuts are resulting in TAFE being much less effective than before.

It appears that the cuts to Tafe are a deliberate ploy to privatise TAFE. This will be a huge mistake

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because Without a strong government backed system with career teachers we are cutting the throats of so many future students. It is obvious that many young Australian are p[poorly educated. A well-funded TAFE can do something towards keeping Australia not only a lucky country but a smart one

Submitted by

Brian Marthick of North Wollongong

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, kay Hughes, of CASINO NSW make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teachers aide, in the postcode of 2470.

I have for the past eight years worked at Casino High School working with Aboriginal students. During this time I have been privileged to spend a lot of time in the local Bundjalung community. I recently lost this job as when an expression of interest was asked for I wasn't Aboriginal and was unsuccessful for this reason. I fortunately was offered a years work at the local Catholic primary. The friendships formed with students and former students continues and two girls told me they wanted to do a particular Tafe course and couldn't as the price was now around five thousand. This and other factors now make Tafe unattainable for lots of students and especially Aboriginal students.

Tafe contributes to people like my son and daughter whom both have trades. One is in

the mines and the other has her own business at 23,
she has also taken on a school based apprentice. This has been a nightmare for me
BUT the apprentice is fantastic, as I help with the
the phone calls etc.

I know some students that have done the Proud course and have given themselves a
second chance. This

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...that students can do a
course

Yes and the fee increase hasn't helped one persons achieve their dream and there
isn't anything for them to a their dream and they are now enrolled in a course they
hate..

Yes as lots of returning students have now dropped out.

It has and local kids are not being offered apprenticeships as they did even five years
ago. So they are now doing Community classes as their are dream course has now
been made unattainable.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because€if you
are prepared and do the right course it can mean a difference to their whole life and
encourage others to do a course as well. When Aboriginal students achieve the whole
community are told and this encourages others.

Submitted by

kay Hughes of CASINO NSW

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Patricia Hall, of Taringa make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I was a part time evening teacher at TAFE in Sydney for 10 years in the 1990's. Even back then the resourcing was pathetic - we bought our own stationery, did our own photocopying, shared content, developed our own teaching tools etc. Often the only information we were given about the curriculum was a one page outline of a 10 week course! We were paid a pittance, a completely inadequate hourly rate for teaching hours only, despite the hours we spent on preparation, marking and mentoring. My husband kept asking me why I kept doing it?

I will tell you why - the students who attended TAFE at night were the most dedicated, focused people I have ever taught. They were exhausted from working all day but they brought themselves to TAFE 2 and 3 times per week so that they could improve themselves, get that promotion, acquire that job, gain that entry into university. They listened, they participated, they completed their assignments. They had substandard facilities and little access to help, apart from snatched discussions with the teachers

during breaks. They DESERVED good teachers, they passed their courses with flying colours. The Human Resource Management subjects I taught, plus the others my business colleagues taught, helped these students compete favourably with the much better resourced universities. Our students gained employment and kept in touch with us for years, such was their gratitude that TAFE teachers would share their experiences, support and guide them and foster collaborative study skills. Never have I experienced collegiality like it. Teachers helped and supported each other and whenever some poor new teacher appeared in the staff room bewildered about the lack of resourcing, we shared our knowledge, class content, and encouragement with them.

TAFE has continued to be starved of funding and now it is criticised for it to justify closure of sites and limit its function. This short-sightedness fails to acknowledge the vital role TAFE plays in up-skilling, creating pathways, and providing industry experience to those students who cannot, for various reasons, gain university entry. Education is the keystone to a decent and evolving society. TAFE is critical, keep it please.

Submitted by

Patricia Hall of Taringa

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Ross Davey , of Darlinghurst make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I've been coming back to TAFE since I first started in 1976.

During a course of study at TAFE in 2011 one of my fellow students effectively saved my life by supporting me in continuing the assessments and finishing the course.

Thankfully I'm still studying at TAFE and so is the lady who encouraged me to not give up.

Ross Davey

Submitted by

Ross Davey of Darlinghurst

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Michelle Ferlazzo, of Brunswick East make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a on sabbatical, in the postcode of 3057.

When I left high school in 1985, the only option for me was to go to a TAFE to study a Library and Information Services course.

It took several years to finish my course as I was working whilst studying.

If I had not attended TAFE, I would have had not have been able to fulfill my childhood dream of becoming a Librarian.

Not everyone is interested in going to university.

University does not teach trade or semi-professional courses.

University is not for everyone.

In this country we need people with real training and skills for real jobs. A TAFE offers this hands down over other education options.

We need tradies - electricians, plumbers, builders; mechanics, auto electricians; aged care staff, occupational therapists, carers for disabled folk etc etc

I was unable to go to university for a number of reasons. One of which was the university course, didn't provide the flexibility I needed to study and work. I wanted to learn real skills and take them to work to practice.

I had only ever wanted to be a Librarian and TAFE was the only option for me.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means... I don't live in a regional area.

Yes local TAFE's, if they haven't already been decimated need to be able to offer a variety of courses to regional people so they can learn new skills. There should be no discrimination in education.

YES!!!!. Why are we permitting 'international' schools?? I have much anecdotal evidence of some of these schools being nothing more than fronts for illegal immigration. Students not having to attend classes and being passed. Courses offered which TAFE already offers. etc etc

Hasn't Berwick TAFE closed? That's probably a good example

YES. Staff sacked, depts decimated - the list goes on.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need our tradies and other semi-professionals to be the cogs in the well oiled machine of life. A university course does not offer the kinds of courses, skills and trades we need to run as a community.

Submitted by

Michelle Ferlazzo of Brunswick East

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Fiona Martin, of Lilyfield make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a University lecturer, in the postcode of 2040.

My brother and sister-in-law both did diplomas at TAFE and this gave them entry to university. They are now both successful accountants and this would not have been possible without TAFE.

Also my daughter did not complete her HSC at school so needed to do an extra subject and she did this successfully at TAFE

It provides a range of educational opportunities including practical training for such areas as apprentices, hospitality etc but also prepares some students for further study at university.

My brother and sister-in-law had family issues whilst in High School and did not perform as well as they might have in the HSC. After a few years they realised that they needed further education and TAFE was the avenue that provided this.

N/A.

not really - but not paid any attention to this.

There is a reduction in courses offered. Also the quality of teaching has suffered.

There is significant hardship caused by the reduction in courses offered and the lack of good teaching. Also increases in fees means that poorer students are denied educational opportunities.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because education is an investment in our future. TAFE is one of the ways that people who did not get into University can get an education and a better job and therefore make a better contribution to society.â€¦

Submitted by

Fiona Martin of Lilyfield

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, David Bennett, of Klemzig make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retired lecturer, in the postcode of 5087.

I lectured in TAFE in communication, management, supervision, english etc.

I like to think my lectures helped the hundreds of students I had do their jobs more effectively thus contributing economically to the country and psychologically to the students happiness in their jobs

by enabling thousands of students to profit from the technical knowledge and years of experience of the lecturers

My english language students and the unemployed youth in particular have been given the skills to try new areas of work

Funding cuts should never be made without first doing an assessment of the current courses and seeing if they still fulfill a demand. Cuts tend to be made in the abstract

Yes when I was in charge of Real Estate training and the Real Estate industry wanted to do its own courses. They were only concerned to getting people out into the industry as quickly as possible to earn a dollar.

No I'm not close enough to it these days

One big way is the push to make bigger colleges and not to allow fully independent smaller colleges to continue. Closeness to the students in the smaller colleges was much better for the health of the college and the relevant training of the students

The TAFE sector is the most important training sector for the majority of the post school sector to get the training they need for a huge range of careers. It improves our economic efficiency and the fulfillment of the students,

Submitted by

David Bennett of Klemzig

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Andy Langford, of Merewether Heights make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Marine Engineer, in the postcode of 2291.

TAFE allowed me to become a licenced electrical fitter mechanic, then retrain as an instrument fitter when retraining was required due to restructuring at the Newcastle Steelworks. Then TAFE allowed me to study and become a junior Marine Engineer before the Newcastle Steelworks closed. This allowed me to step into a new career within the Australian Maritime Industry. Then TAFE allowed me study to become a Senior Marine Engineer to become more competitive in a shrinking Australian Maritime Industry. Now working as a Tug Boat Engineer within Newcastle Port as the coastal Maritime Industry is being decimated due to abuse of the 457 visa, I am now studying by correspondence to multi-skill as a Skipper to remain competitive.

In Summary, as Australian industry has shrank due to successive government neglect, TAFE has been the vehicle that keeps me adaptive to the same shrinking Australian

industry. Now TAFE is shrinking..In the same term that the ALP gave away 600 million tax payer dollars to a European economic basket case... Allows foreign labour in to do work that Australians can do and reduce the training facilities such as TAFE at the same time. Australians are now beautiful sacrificial anodes..

It contributes to a strong and smart workforce when teaching at a TAFE college is an attractive career. It is not an attractive career when more and more teaching positions are becoming casual positions.

Yes. More tax payers dollars are being donated to shonky recognised training organisations. The outcome is poorly trained people that drives the standard of workmanship down.

Casualisation of teaching positions creates high turn over of staff and a poor outcome for students.

Teachers positions are being casualised and this causes them to loose motivation.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦The TAFE sector is absolutely essential for quality training that our workforce desperately needs.

Submitted by

Andy Langford of Merewether Heights

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Robert Nathan, of Shoal Bay make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retired, in the postcode of 2315.

When the TAFE scheme was first put forward by Maurice lemma's NSW LABOR Government, to set training courses for students without the necessary educational requirements to reach The High School Certificate, or to go on to University degrees, and to train them into trade skills which would give them a solid foundation in their working life, I remember thinking how brilliant lemma's plan was!

These kids could spend the last 3 years of their schooling, learning a trade skill that would set them up to earn adult wages as soon as they left TAFE and entered the community as skilled workers. Why hadn't any Federal politician had the initiative to bring forward this unique opportunity for our young students, not possessing the

necessary grey matter of their peers?

I remember vividly at the time, that John Howard brazenly, and audaciously attempted to make it his own policy, but like everything that is simple and just policy, the Liberals somehow allowed Howard's liking for this TAFE skills policy, to fall by the wayside!

Probably when they looked hard enough at it, they realised that although they would have been doing something worthwhile for our lesser academic students, they also saw that they would have been doing something good for ALL Australians,.... and that just isn't their 'go'.

Actually, it was on Howard's watch, that the skills shortage widened in our country. Had Howard addressed the skills shortage, the 457 Visas that are so prevalent today, would never have reached the scale presently being adopted by the largest mining and Multi-National companies.

The State governments have a duty to work with The Federal Government to advance and maintain skills for our younger generation! Otherwise, skills will fall behind, again, and Australia will become a 457 Visa country, with immigrants continuing to take up positions that would normally be given to our own younger generation, and this is something that will take our country 'backwards',..... not forwards!

These large mining and Multi-National Companies have an agenda to drive down the National Wage standards, through 457 Visas, and this cannot be tolerated!

The people of Australia should stand together on this one, and demand that State Governments comply, and work with The Federal government to maintain our TAFE skills advancement in this great country.

Call a referendum on it, if need be? Surely Australians would be positive about advancing skills among our less fortunate younger generation!.....The Liberals need to be given our message!

Robert Nathan.

Shoal Bay, NSW.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦!

Submitted by

Robert Nathan of Shoal Bay

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Melissa , of Ellenbrook make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Training consultant, in the postcode of 6069.

If it weren't for tafe my 16 year old daughter would be at a loss. The structured but adult environment has seen her successfully complete a cert 111 and she will soon complete cert iv in digital technologies. She then wants to complete a diploma and head to uni. As a training professional in the workplace I have been consistently disappointed with the quality of employees completing training at small rto's to the point that a tafe qual is valued and the others are questionable. Tafe remains one of the last equity makers, uni costs are high and can leave people with much potential blocked from improving their qualifications and prospects. People need opportunity. A society with too many people with nothing left to lose has a sad and dangerous future.

Tafe stands alone in preparing people for work roles and career advancement at a

reasonable cost.

I taught disadvantaged adults for a number of years. After developing basic education tafe provided a large variety of achievable courses. For people in difficulty the certificate level quals are a great stepping stone. Leave uni after two years and you have nothing but debt.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Absolutely as I said above. Over-priced and unethical in too many cases. They want their money and I have witnessed lecturers writing assessment answers on white boards to copy and a blind eye attitude to plagiarism.

Lack of choice in quals, particularly second semester starts.

Less choice and insecurity related to funding

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because without it the quality of employment ready training for those most needing it will suffer and long term unemployment will climb

Submitted by

Melissa of Ellenbrook

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Paul Gambley, of Bald Hills make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a electrician, in the postcode of 4036.

I started my career with a pre vocational course at the Bundaberg TAFE college. This gave me a stepping stone to a carrer with The Gladstone Port Authority. During my apprenticeship I also enrolled in other courses at TAFE that in the end I received a Diploma of Electrical Engineering. Without TAFE and the teachers assistance I would not have been able to achieve what I have done and accomplished over my years as an electrician. I now work for one of the biggest manufactures in the country as a Technician.

TAFE offers a hands on role that helps people develope their technical skills. The teachers are always available and have been through the trade themselves.

The cuts to TAFE has meant there are less teachers and less courses offered. The times that are offered are harder to get to and less frequent.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need more tradespeople. There is a shortage out there and if they cut the funding to TAFE then the younger generation will not have somewhere to go to enter into the trades.

Submitted by

Paul Gambley of Bald Hills

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Stephanie Cunio, of North Bondi make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Union educator, in the postcode of 2026.

I left school the day I was old enough. If it weren't for TAFE I wouldn't have gotten a School Certificate or Higher School Certificate

It is affordable, vocationally based public education and is necessary to develop a huge section of our workforce

Me in my HSC. I also have two other close friends who, like me, left school early and did their HSC's at TAFE. All three of us now have uni degrees and meaningful work.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes. Some of my colleagues got their assessment & training cert iv from such dodgy institutions.

For years teaching has become increasingly casualised. I taught at IT from 1997-2002. During this period, two permanent full time positions in my faculty were abolished when the incumbents retired.

Casualised teachers with little or no prep time ad resources are OK if they are the minority. But when they become the majority quality education ans demure work are sacrificed.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦it needs to be. Without it, we will lose a percentage of the skilled workforce of the future

Submitted by

Stephanie Cunio of North Bondi

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Adrian Gooneratne, of Lamington make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Teacher, in the postcode of 6430.

I learned my trade in TAFE and it is a experience that I treasure to this day.

During the past 23 years, I have earned a living due to the training I got at TAFE.

TAFE provides training for mature aged apprentices who can learn a trade for themselves and get a second chance.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦!

Submitted by

Adrian Gooneratne of Lamington

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Michelle Lee, of Pasadena make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a freelance designer, small business owner, visual artist, full time mother of one and part time student, in the postcode of 5042.

I chose to go to TAFE right after high school as after research it was the best pathway for the career I wanted. I completed the Advanced Diploma of Advertising and Graphic Design, it was a fantastic course and many of my fellow students received offers for employment during the course and shortly after the course. I chose to further my studies at University which I got much status for. The TAFE course prepared me for the much more practical side of graphic design than University could have. I worked as a graphic designer and art director in the number of years following my courses. I am currently enrolled in TAFE again doing the Bachelor of Visual arts. I absolutely LOVE this course and the facilities are world class. I (along with many at the AC ARTS tafe in Adelaide) are very worried about them changing the structure of this course and

possibly making it an advanced diploma instead of a degree; also worried about them changing the usage of the space. Visual arts and performing arts need a lot of space, it is very different to other types of study where you just need a desk and a computer. It is equipping me with skills to enhance my career as a visual artist. Art should not be underestimated for the role it plays in history and our current society.

It works with / alongside industries to create curriculum and has a practical sense as opposed to university where it is a lot more theoretical based. The lecturers are all practising their expertise as well as teaching, not just the latter and not in touch with the real world.

Many of my fellow students are mature age students who due to many different circumstances have found themselves with the need to re skill in a different industry. It is an accessible way for people to study.

Yes there are lots of private and small schools which are not regulated and no government standards, so people are not really sure what they are getting when they finish those courses.

Yes, my student fees are going to rise very soon. The lecturers are all very nervous and there is a general sense of unrest at our tafe in adelaide. We all love our courses and tafe very much (ACARTS) and since they just sacked our Director, we are really feeling its all about big business and not about education.

I know the number of classes will probably be reduced when they start restructuring our tafe at ACARTS. They will increase the class size and cut number of classes. Which in turns means lesser flexibility for students able to study at those times and more student to lecturer ratio.

I have had the most positive experiences in both my TAFE courses so far. It is a worrying prospect that affordable education does not matter as much as big business. There will be more and more unskilled people unable to study, and unable to find work and support themselves thus draining the system on welfare.. It will be a sad day to find you can only go to university for training. University is very different teaching method to tafe and having been to both, I find tafe is much, much more approachable way of learning. I urge them to take notice now and make sure the TAFE sector is funded well.

Submitted by

Michelle Lee of Pasadena

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Kevin Smith, of Mt Pleasant make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Retired, in the postcode of 4740.

I have attended TAFE for a number of courses for qualifications I gained to further my career. I also have attended TAFE courses to gain knowledge and training in recreational pursuits. I would like to attend TAFE in the future for further personal development.

As from my own personal experience TAFE is an important part of the educational system utilized by many people for employment as well as personal development. This is particularly so for regional areas.

Living in a regional area means TAFE is the only provider of some of the courses I have attended previously.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded particularly in regional areas as TAFE provides opportunity otherwise not available.

Submitted by

Kevin Smith of Mt Pleasant

Friday 12th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Ian Anderson, of Greenvale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Driver, in the postcode of 3059.

WELL I THINK ITS VERY IMPORTANT TO KEEP TAFE GOING STRONG I grew up in the TECH School days and i also think that it was wrong to close them down too

where else do they get skills to go on to do trades L IKE metal workers/plumbers /wood workers etc

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

YES

YES

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦

Submitted by

Ian Anderson of Greenvale

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Brian Bingley, of Noarlunga Downs make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Librarian, in the postcode of 5000.

I have a degree but encounter TAFE students from courses of all types in my work

Essential to continuing learning/training for those people either not disposed to tertiary study or unable to qualify

TAFE is the only game in town for many occupations, eg hairdressing, motor mechanics, catering industry, etc.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means... a chance to better yourself and increase job and travel opportunities

Many under resourced organisations in the ESL (English as a 2nd language field)

Havent noticed but havent had direct contact with local ofr central TAFE other than through students.

Dont know.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it as an essential, highly valued pillar of continuing education in Australia.

Submitted by

Brian Bingley of Noarlunga Downs

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Mark Ready, of Highbury make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Lecturer, in the postcode of 5089.

I have worked and studied at tafe for about 20yrs. Two other members of my family have studied at tafe and received a good start into working life

Tafe has trained each of us to get straight into the job and to be productive.

My wife and I learned business skills which were immediately used effectively in the workplace.

Our son studied graphic design for a year, gained a traineeship and started his business which has been successful for ten years, thanks to that first year of solid tafe training.

A young friend was struggling at high school. He took vet in schools with our Parafield

campus and eventually gained credentials in avionics. He spent some years working on Hornets and the like before gaining a better position at the sub corp.

We are convinced again and again that tafe provides sound education for a skilled Australian workforce. More than that tafe instills life and work values which are essential for a prosperous community

I needed a change of employment so joined my wife in a course at tafe for business skills. This led to a successful placement where I was able to bring my previous experience and new skills to the benefit of my new employer, tafe sa.

If I were to live away from the metro area I would be wanting access to the full range of services for which tafe has been highly regarded. I would be attempting to choose a location with a strong tafe programs and services.

My network of friends includes many in regional areas and they value tafe very highly. There's a lot of concern about courses dropping of the list leaving training in the hands of organisations often less competent.

My tafe has shed positions from support services in the face of exceptional high enrolment rates.

My tafe has closed and got rid of the staff of the single most effective workgroup tasked with producing innovative learning materials and marketing materials in a season where these materials have never been more needed.

These moves have been able to show a few short term budget gains in some departments but are already costing in others which have to compensate for the services lost.

Certain students, not eligible for skills for all, are due for far greater course fees than in the past.

Increasingly lower skills and academic standards of students coming to tafe requires higher level of input from student support services and foundation skills trainers. Cuts to these services throw more load on the lecturers who have to compensate, slow classes down, provide remedial work for struggling students. Better or average students get frustrated. Overall grades and numbers graduating are down. Tafe gets a bad name

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because our community relies on a vibrant, positive training environment.

TAFE demonstrates best practice and is the benchmark for vocational training. It can not be so if it is poorly funded

Submitted by

Mark Ready of Highbury

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Gordon Conn, of Bella Vista make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a TAS Teacher, in the postcode of 2153.

I left school after obtaining my Intermediate Certificate to take up a job as an Apprentice Boilermaker. This was a 5 year Indentured period requiring me to attend TAFE for 4 years. I undertook further studies at TAFE in Structural Engineering and Special Welding whilst I was employed as a Teacher of Boilermaking/Metal Fabrication.

I believe it is essential for the future growth of Australia that we continue to offer through TAFE courses that will ensure people continue to be provided with the training in skills that are needed to guarantee the workforce required to face the challenges for now and into the future.

I am an example of starting out doing what my dad did, Boilermaking, making a conscious decision to go further in education by attending Evening College to obtain my Leaving Certificate, gaining a scholarship to become an Education Officer in Child & Social Welfare, winning a position in TAFE, undertaking further study whilst Teaching Boilermaking/Metal Fabrication to become a Regional Senior Head Teacher.

I have lived and taught in regional areas where students would travel over 100 kms to undertake courses in Special Welding and have felt the appreciation from those students that the courses were available to them. To reduce funding and/or reduce the number of Colleges would severely limit those living outside major cities to get a post school education.

Any system such as TAFE relies on Government Funding. The current continuing trend of user pays means when funds are cut fees must rise or services reduced. Once the fee lemon is squeezed to its limit enrolments fall and classes drop off thus ensuring suitably trained people are in short supply which seems to mean today untrained people go on the dole whilst 457 Visas are issued for foreign workers to come here to work taking their money out of the country.

I urge the committee to ensure future funding ensures the future demands of Industry are met with TAFE continuing to produce highly skilled personnel thus helping to continue the growth of our country into the future.

Submitted by

Gordon Conn of Bella Vista

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Anita Ward, of Warrnambool make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Enrolled Nurse, in the postcode of 3284.

I was widowed at 36yrs of age and having two young children and no formal qualifications I soon realized that our financial situation was in decline. With the support and encouragement of my best friend I enrolled at SWTAFE to undertake a Certificate in Aged Care. With a low self esteem and little confidence I began the course in 1999. Since completing this course I have undertaken a number of courses at TAFE ranging from a return to study program to Cert IV in nursing and resently completing Administeration in Medication. Without the dedication and understanding of the staff and the way classes were structured I don't believe I would of achieved the level of educational I have or be as financially secure that I am in today.

TAFE helps to further develop skills in many areas of todays and the futures work

environment by giving secondary school students an insight to and the opportunity to undertake TAFE studies as part of their year 11 and 12 studies. Many people use TAFE as a stepping stone before furthering their education, either at university or in the trade area. I believe many of our young given the opportunity will find TAFE the right learning environment for them to further their studies so they too can fit into the work force in the future.

Without the encouragement of the dedicated SWTAFE staff I would not have completed a tertiary education. My husband became extremely ill during the Christmas New Year break of 1999. After consultation with the lectures I learnt that I would have to defer my course for twelve months. I was totally devastated by this decision and had it not been for the understanding, caring and professional attitude of staff I don't believe I would of had the confidence to come back to TAFE in 2000 and complete my certificate.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...that people from all walks of life can have the opportunity to further their education and standing in life. If TAFE hadn't been available to me I would have most likely needed government assistance to raise my children. However I have been able to work, pay taxes and teach my children that any thing is possible if you work hard enough to achieve what you want.

Sadly I have to say I have noticed that some students that have come into our facility after completing their aged care certificate at local private colleges are not as confident nor do they have the same level of understanding of what the job consists of, even to the point of them openly stating "I don't do showers" well hello who does.

I have noticed budget cuts effecting our local TAFE due to the courses that have been cut this year such as business management and the newly introduced on-line learning

courses as well as the rise in fees.

As I personally know some of our local TAFE staff I am aware of the pressures they are under with the extra work loads they have to undertake and the stress being caused in not knowing if they are going to be made redundant. All this has an impact on their working life and the care and dedication that they wish to give as well as their personal life. I am also aware of young people not undertaking TAFE studies this year because the course is only offered on-line or through the private sector and they don't feel that they will be able to get the assistance that they need to be able to complete the course. Not all people can learn from a computer, face to face time is still needed on a weekly basis.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the future generations should have the same opportunities that previous generations have had in the TAFE system. Education should be affordable and excessable to all who wish to further their education

Submitted by

Anita Ward of Warrnambool

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Joseph Awad, of Greystanes NSW make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a , in the postcode of 2145.

I have used TAFE college all my life, since leaving high school in year 10, to take on a cadetship in retail management.

I could not afford to stop working and only study to further my careers. I was 16 years old when I left school. I did not have the money to pay for my studies and my parents were not affluent enough to support my studies.

I started TAFE back in 1972 doing retail distribution and supervision to help me become a retail manager. I managed to achieve that goal. After ten years in that field, I wanted to change occupation and do welfare studies. So I applied to the University of NSW in Kensington to do a BA degree then transfer into welfare studies. I was

accepted. But after starting Uni, my wife became pregnant, so I had to leave after the first term to find a job to look after my new family. I was then able to go to TAFE while I was working to further my new studies in welfare. Three years later I succeeded and found a job in welfare, where I was more helpful to the community for 22 years and more self satisfied.

I also did other one day courses in some areas of my field to help equip me better through TAFE over the years

.

Without TAFE studies, I would not have been able to further my education and benefit the community more with my new acquired skills and become a better citizen. Such skills has also helped me manage my life better with more self satisfaction at every turn.

TAFE courses provides a cost effective study opportunities to less affluent people in our community. Where an individual can work and study at the same time, which will help to up skill the workforce, while maintaining an income stream, making it less taxing on the welfare system (Centrelink) I was a migrant. I came to Australia in 1964 and I was 8 years old. I belief that Australians should have the opportunity to have a TAFE courses of study to further their skills and fit in better in the work force. Such courses also has helped some of my friends to have successful businesses too. TAFE is a source of education that can cater for a variety of jobs for Australian Migrants and early school leavers, in our community.

If the government wants better skilled workforce in the community and less on the doll, then it needs to facilitate affordable study places like TAFE institute, to provide the opportunity for workers and employers to skill their staff while that are productive at the same time in the work force.

I am a proud Australian and want to be proud of my government to make sure that my kids have the opportunity to further their skills through affordable Universities and TAFE colleges to up skill them so they can be productive and service our community whether it be medicine, law, welfare or business

Without TAFE studies, I would not have been able to study anything, if I could not work full time and study at night, with courses I can afford. Most courses in my younger days were free, which provided more incentive to study after working hours and weekends, to help me earn more money through up skilling myself and benefiting the community as a whole. If TAFE colleges were to go, the community will pay for it at the end, through unskilled people roaming the streets, higher unemployment and crime and more people on the Doll.

TAFE colleges and University benefit the community through a smarter more educated population, that aid Government bodies be more able to communicate and reason with. We all need that if we need more peace and a better educated population that reflect our educational standard, so we can stand proud as a nation among others leading nations in the world.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes, I have noticed there is less quality control and public scrutiny in Privately run colleges. TAFE colleges operate more on international standard. The community are more critical and scrutinise public departments. People expect a high standard of educational curriculum that equips a student to a high level of standard.

Private colleges are good, but have less public security about the standard of performance, since its the Dollar profit figure that is at stake in the long run for Privately run colleges.

I am not studying much at present, but I assume, the individual has to pay for it and assume the fees would be higher, which automatically weeds out the people that need to be there and help keep people employed and progressive in this fast paced world of profit based employment and highly skilled level of expertise and technology. I assume we will have less people that are skilled and more on the Doll, increasing the cost to government in the long run.

Cutting cost from education, especially from TAFE colleges at like attacking the grass roots of a community. This is ultimately reflective in more costs in other areas in the community. There is no hiding from that and the Government at the end will pay more for it. At least now, employers are encouraged to employ since up skilling staff is affordable through TAFE.

Greatly. school leavers and unskilled people are starting to flood the community I feel. This is very detrimental to any community. Less satisfied people and more ignorant community that are difficult to communicate with. We only need to look at third world countries and affluent countries to see how education has affected the countries state of health, we all the community pay for in some way or form. That is why my parents migrated to Australia.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we as a community need more skilled and up skilled people to take us to the next generation. To keep pace with the world trends and technical advancements ahead. By providing a government managed colleges like TAFE to provide the opportunities for its people to take up studies in all areas and fields so we are more independent as a nation without importing skilled people from other countries.

Australian was founded on the opportunity to have a go and have the resources to do so, made available at an affordable rate for the average individual on an low to an

average income bracket. That the college standard of education is of high standard, open to public scrutiny and Government accountable to it. That such high standard of education is in par with international standard world wide.

Submitted by

Joseph Awad of Greystanes NSW

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, William Higgins, of Mount Gravatt make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a TAFE Teacher, in the postcode of 4122.

I have been a TAFE teacher since 1981 working mainly with Electrical Apprentices.

I am concerned about the ever increasing pressure to reduce the time an apprentice spends at college. It appears that this pressure has more to do with TAFE saving on teachers' wages than streamlining courses for students.

It could be argued that today's students learn by different ways, but we are not given enough time, resources and services to develop these resources while we are kept on overtime for much of the year. There is also good evidence that teachers who understand their subject matter and student needs impart a better understanding than googling assignment questions.

I have taught some NAPS apprentices in a blended delivery format which has been a very successful enterprise where they completed their apprenticeships in 18 months

during their off time as part of their 10 days on, 10 days off, roster with a Mine.

This model has its place but the students were mature age, hand picked from a large application list, highly motivated (their pay increased to over \$100K on completion) and usually had a previous trade often with some electrical background.

Most of our regular electrical apprentices are committed to their job and course and reasonably intelligent but they do not start on the same footing as the NAPS students.

TAFE training overall has had a reputation as being fair and of high quality. It has been these qualities that have guaranteed us of full classes for many years. In many cases it is the only formal trade training that many tradespeople receive. Australia has had a good reputation for producing smart Electricians/Tradies with a dash of good old Ozzie ingenuity thrown in.

The relative size and population of our country has meant that the electrician has designed the installation, run the wires, connected the appliances, installed the communications, fixed the pump and control circuit, programmed the Logic Controller and Bus system, tested the installation and sometimes connected the hotwater pipes. All with one apprenticeship. Other countries have had specialists for each section.

As with the boom in education as an Australian export earner this is a time to be increasing the level of training of our workforce rather than cutting it up and selling it off to the highest bidder.

There have been numerous cases where mature age apprentices have come to college fearful of failure due to very limited academic achievement at school. TAFE has often given them a new opportunity to improve their knowledge of particularly maths and english. Their enthusiasm and hard work is often enough to get them through first

year and their desire to understand rather than just rote learn means they generally perform better than the younger apprentices in the next three years. They have also identified the flow-on effect this has had on their own childrens' academic achievement.

Two of my own daughters went to TAFE to improve their OP scores and did courses that were tied to their employment. Both performed very well . One has just completed a diploma, her reading writing and communication ability has improved tremendously and she has taken a more responsible role at her workplace. The older daughter shifted career, completed a Teaching degree and has just been approved for a permanent teacher position. The quality of their TAFE courses certainly gave them the ability and confidence to improve their job prospects and worth to the community.

I came from the medium sized town of Maryborough Qld. The choice after school was to leave home and go on to University in Brisbane or do a trade or some other job in Maryborough. At the time about 3% of people went on to Uni and for the other 97% the relevance of the senior years of high school was not as important as it was if you were a Brisbane student. In more remote country areas this disparity is still much greater as noted by my daughter who has recently been transferred to Charters Towers as a teacher.

The level of classroom resources is appalling.

TAFE has played its part in regional towns in bridging some of this gap in opportunities and the cosequent flow on in terms of relevance of education to high school students.

My first experience with the lower standard of a privately run RTO was when it closed its doors and we had to take their students as well as accept their previous results gained with that private RTO. Their foundational concepts about electricity were very weak and we found it difficult slow down our delivery enough to allow them to catch up

to the rest of the class.

A second instance was a friend who has now almost completed as an electrician. He did a prevocation course with a private RTO who lost some of his records and significantly delayed his apprenticeship.

One of our new teachers tells us of his experience. By the time he had completed two years as a teacher he was one of the most experienced teachers in the company. The turn over rate per year was about 200% with the average teacher lasting about six months.

Up until now we have been somewhat insulated from the effects of private RTO's because our electrical trade is fairly reliant on a high standard of training. Where in some of our other trade areas there have been large losses of apprentices to private RTO's (often with them returning a couple of years later) we have always been working on overtime and with fairly full classes to service our demand. There has been speculation that changes to the funding model will give private RTO's an advantage over TAFE and we will lose our market share.

We sometimes hear reports about one niche market for private RTO's. Some of our fourth year apprentices who fail our final (capstone) exam switch across to a private provider where it is easier to pass and they take a significant part of our funding with them.

There have been many job cuts in TAFE. We teachers are constantly being told of the changes that are in the pipeline to our conditions and it is not a pretty story.

On the other hand reports of extra funding to bring our equipment/resources up to scratch has been written off as a pipe dream.

Even the most diligent teacher leaves work at night with more work on their desk than at the start of the day.

Our pay is not all that high compared to what we would be getting if we stayed on the tools. We have chosen teaching because of the satisfaction of helping people learn

and for the lifestyle that it offers. Some of our teachers are already talking about other jobs they have been offered.

I hope the predictions are not all true and the future of TAFE can be as strong into the future as it has been in the past. Our community depends on a robust training system for apprentices and engineers.

In an attempt to save money, one of our most important and difficult competencies (subjects) suffered a cut in delivery time from the nominal 120 hours to 84 hours (2 days were lost over Easter). It is the second block run this way.

This competency makes students aware of the electrical design and equipment required to provide safety to people, livestock and property when wiring installations. In other word to prevent electrocution, fires and injury from electrical apparatus.

The teachers only found out about the reduction in hours on the week before the first block's delivery. Of the approximately 25 students 5 students did not even turn up for the last day of classes yesterday because the pressure of completing the course in the reduced time was too great. We have had mature students breaking down in class and one of the student's wife ring up for assistance to help him to get through this time. Other students were discussing waking up at night having night mares about their exams.

We were unable to cover some of the Essential Skills and Knowledge and will have to organise some extra classes when they return for their next block but the blocks are so full that this remedial effort will occur peicemeal over a number of intakes of students.

Another teacher was asked and agreed to a similar time reduction in his competency on the condition extra equipment be purchased to allow a radical new approach to be used. The equipment list was submitted last year and agreed upon but has not been

provided even though the classes have had to go ahead in the shortened delivery time. There has been an impact on classes, hardship and a reduction in the quality of the TAFE brand due to cuts in our electrical department.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because Australia needs an intelligent workforce. Many of the principles learnt at TAFE are the same that were taught 50 years ago and they are the key to understanding most of the newer developments. Others look at the latest developments. We often only have one go at training our trades people and after that it is up to them or their employers to modify the base knowledge for newer technologies. Let's make it a good effort.

There are a number of flow on effects from a firm base knowlege. Just like in medicine or law the community pays for shoddy practices.

Many TAFE students find a new relavence to education after they have failed or performed poorly at high school and it can give these people a second chance.

These students' children also benefit form a smarter Mum or Dad with added community benefits. TAFE has also provided a tertiary stepping stone in regional communities further reinforcing the benefit of education.

TAFE has a good reputation and it would be a shame to destroy that reputation by changing too much too quickly because of idealogical rather than educationalional factors.

Ad hoc decisions primariially concerned with saving money are having major effects on our courses and students including depression, attrition and loss of wages when they have to repeat a block of study without pay.

The funding cuts and negative threats to Teachers' conditions are also having the effect of increased work loads with a reduction of job satisfaction. Surely a 200%pa staff turn-over rate must be bad for the community, students, teachers as well as our business.

Submitted by

William Higgins of Mount Gravatt

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Mary-Kate Khoo, of North Toowoomba make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a freelance designer, in the postcode of 4350.

I went to Uni after leaving school and did a Bachelor of Arts (Illustration/Graphic Design), followed by a Graduate Diploma (Animation). I also completed a short course in Photoshop through TAFE in Brisbane and was most impressed by the efficient delivery of knowledge. I worked for several years work in the television industry as a Production Designer before I moved to a regional city (Toowoomba) and became a full time mum (with the odd bit of freelance graphic design work on the side - largely self taught). As my children are now become more independent, I enrolled in TAFE-SQIT at the start of this year to upgrade my skills in the field of Graphic Design. I was faced with the options of purchasing expensive software and self teaching, or going back to TAFE and buying educational versions of the software. I am so pleased I chose the latter as even after the first term I have been so impressed with the course and time

management/workforce ready focus. My aim is to be workforce ready again within 18 months and feel confident the skills I am learning now will ensure this happens.

The TAFE focus is for students to acquire the skills necessary to be workforce ready. I spent 4 years in the university system at the end of which I was well educated but virtually unemployable. Whilst working many unskilled jobs, I ended up doing voluntary work on weekends for two years before I was offered a uni-skills relevant job. I find TAFE really refreshing in that I know I will be workforce ready immediately upon the completion of the course. I believe TAFE does create a strong Australian workforce because the focus on real work is so strong.

As a mature aged student TAFE is certainly giving me a second chance. The specialised skills I acquired pre-children are no longer useful to me now that I live in a regional city. There have been rapid and huge changes to the nature of graphic design work in the time I have been away from the workforce.

As a mum, I still have commitments to picking up and dropping off children etc. TAFE, being local, has been ideal in that I am able to juggle my commitments with the children with study - and mostly during school hours. I did have the option of USQ courses but preferred the TAFE course structure, the speed of knowledge delivery, and work ready focus. The convenience of location has also played a role in my decision to choose SQIT. I am very concerned about the proposed TAFE funding cuts, and therefore my future employment prospects.

I don't know of any private colleges offering the skill set I am seeking in my area.

I have only just begun back at TAFE this year so I don't feel able to comment on this question.

I have only just begun back at TAFE this year so I don't feel able to comment on this question as I can't compare the services I am receiving from that which was offered before the cuts.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because I really want to return to the workforce and know that through upskilling with TAFE, this is my best and quickest option to do so.

Submitted by

Mary-Kate Khoo of North Toowoomba

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Karen Cassidy, of Kenwick make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a bookkeeper, in the postcode of 6107.

I am currently attending TAFE. I would find it difficult to further my education any other way.

I attend TAFE part time. I looked at all different ways of doing this and this was the only way that suits my life.

I am currently raising a 10yo grand son and we still have a 17yo at home.

It's an alternative more intimate way of learning. Not everyone can do TEE at that young age. TAFE is an alternative way of achieving TEE and even better still - it gives alternate Trade qualifications for those not so academically minded and it can up skill

people wishing to return to the workforce.

See above

I live in Perth WA - there's nowhere near the extent of courses available - some unis are lowering their standards

Yes - I enquired with some open colleges - the qualifications I believe were dubious - more interested in signing you up than anything else. One college course said I needed to attend a Uni 2 days per term - that sounded ok - except the closest Uni I could attend was in Adelaide and I'm in Perth!

The staffing has been cut - lecturers are expected to lecture more - with less time available. Courses are being cut - while qualification expectations are rising. Not everyone wants to go to Uni - TAFE is desperately needed to shore up the workforce.

See above

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the young people at a loss when leaving year 12 because they're not academically minded can complete pre - apprenticeship courses - more mature age people wishing to go back into the workforce can upskill

Submitted by

Karen Cassidy of Kenwick
Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Justin Richards, of Padbury make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a sys tech, in the postcode of 6440.

TAFE was accessible and at that time was an institution that pandered to my particular thirst for knowledge. I remember over hearing classes in the hallways that i so much wanted to be part of and in no time at all found myself a part of those classes. Initially, I would just invite myself in and then latter I would formally enrol.

TAFE is accessible. It has changed from when I was initially a student but it had/has lecturers so full of enthusiasm that it rubs of on the students. It inspires, gets down to the nitty gritty and the interesting stuff. Employers always appreciated TAFE grads for their good mix of theory and hands on.

It gave me a first chance. I wanted so much to be a technician and it well prepared me

for my chosen career. It also gave me a second chance when I discovered I really needed to up-scale my qualifications.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I am not familiar with these. All I can say is that my TAFE experience I consider to be first class. I have been sent on private training courses by my employer and they rarely meet the standards that I experienced while at TAFE.

I have not attended TAFE for some time, but was surprised by the fees last time I attended. I must mention that I considered these fees fair both in my early days and later attendance.

Again, unfortunately I am out of the loop and unable to comment.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it provides a pathway for those that may not believe or have the confidence early on (while they are still very very young) in their careers to attend university and provides that all important stepping stone. Some people take a little longer to truly shine or simply don't have the resources or home life to enable them to take on the challenges of university life. It is an institution that has and hopefully will continue to uncover those precious diamonds in the rough. I enjoyed my TAFE life immensely, I was surprised to later learn that a friend attending Uni was envious as we got to get down and hands on in electronics and computer science where they were more concerned with theory. Don't get me wrong, in my TAFE days, they were heavy on theory but also heavy on practice which was enjoyable. Please keep such an institution alive for like minded young folk. I have done very well for myself and the community and I owe it all to TAFE. Justin

Submitted by

Justin Richards of Padbury

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Les Fortescue, of Gordon make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Audio Visual Technician, in the postcode of 2906.

TAFE gave me my basic trade skills as a Carpenter & Joiner. I have over the years completed an Electronics Certificate but have notice the availability of other trade skills courses becoming less and less. The advantage of getting face to face training with a seior tradesperson is invaluable.

The handing on of skills through TAFE training is something that cannot be replaced. The values and skills that were taught to me by the trade teachers have stayed with me through my whole life.

I have had some dealings with young people who have had a troubled background. I have been able to influence them to go through TAFE and get a trade and they have

all turne out to be fine young people and some very skilled tradespeople.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

not to my knowledge

yes. courses available in our area have reduced significantly over the the years

The reduction in funding of courses through local TAFE's has resulted in anumber of courses becoming unavailable.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the training of skilled tradespeople is the foundation of our society. It gives Australia self sufficient services without the need to hunt overseas for people. I know we have lost tradeskills in regionals areas due to the fact of having to commute long distances to attend TAFE. We need to look after our TAFE system.

Submitted by

Les Fortescue of Gordon

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, George Piggins, of Jannali make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Technician, in the postcode of 2226.

I gained my Electrical Fitter Mechanics Trade Certificate back in 1991 and ever since have been using the skills and knowledge that I aquired. Currently I am considering a Diploma inTelecommunications as my current role is with Telstra.

The TAFE system is a strong basis for those who choose to use it. It is an essential tool to educate and train people in their chosen fields.

I left school before completing year 11 and after a short period in the workforce entered the TAFE system to commence my Trade Certificate.

I can not reiterate enough how important the TAFE system was to me and my career and would hope it is available to my children when they require it.

Submitted by

George Piggins of Jannali

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, jennie arnold, of babinda make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 4861.

I work at Cairns TAFE in the Indigenous faculty and have done for more than 10 years.

I have seen the difference our TAFE programs have made to indigenous students in remote queensland...offering them the chance to upskill and gain some qualifications

Cairns TAFE has many industry connections. We work with employers to find out what their staff need for training and we work out programs that suit the workplace as well as meet the national training requirements

Many of our indigenous students are women who have been working for many years in the local councils and other community organisations . These women have many skills but have never had the chance to gain tertiary qualifications before. Our programs

have helped them further their work abilities and provide formal qualifications for their skills

Teaching TAFE courses in remote qld has enabled many indigenous students to gain skills and gain employment. Our remote programs have been cut severely to the Cape and Torres Straits...so much so that we cannot afford to run workshops in remote communities for our indigenous students this year. Without the TAFE presence many Cape communities will not be able to take advantage of certificate training in a variety of courses.

Many RTOs have set up in Cairns and the Far North to make money from govt funded remote programs. We find that Cairns TAFE often has to come and clean up the mess after a failed RTO course has been delivered. TAFE have the experience and the infrastructure and the connections with community organisations to build and reinforce training in the far north. TAFE needs to be re inforced and supported in its remote delivery- not handicapped by limited offerings.

Cairns TAFE remote campuses have been closed. We dont have a Bamaga campus to run courses in any more. Our funding has been cut to remote communities so that we are unable to offer as many courses or travel to as many communities. We are even unable to offer as many Cairns based workshops to our indigenous students because of Abstudy and Away from Base funding cuts- so our residential workshops are getting more and more limited. Espe;cially hard on indigenous students who need more support and more F2F than non indigenous students!

Cuts to Cairns TAFE have meant we can offer less programs. we have fewer staff on the ground to help with the massive paper trail that we need to commit to for audit purposes. we have less money to purchase class texts and less money to travel to

remote communities. we have less time to develop appropriate courses. we have lost a lot of experienced staff and now have many casual contract staff...less cohesive training programs.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is made up of many very committed teachers and other staff who have great experience in making tertiary education happen for a lot of australians.

Submitted by

jennie arnold of babinda

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Rosa Nguyen, of West Pymble make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Greenwich Hospital, in the postcode of 2065.

TAFE is a big step to make many lives getting better by having a good job, business or to help many students to continue to University

TAFE helps to increase the skillful people in many fields, the important role in the workforce

TAFE helped me in learning the first step in my Nursing career when I didn't have enough confident to go direct to the University. TAFE helped me to become EN, to get good job, good experience. Then I stepped forward and completed my degree after all.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I could see a lot of private courses for Cert III, IV in nursing.

Many graduated students but poor knowledge in dealing with patients, increasing the numbers of incidents

through Union and Media

will effect badly as unable to update the change in technologies, unable to support students in studying

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE is the big step to many Australian' future

Submitted by

Rosa Nguyen of West Pymble

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Diane O'Mara, of Gulgong make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a pensioner, in the postcode of 2852.

I have attended TAFE in the past. Many years ago I studied organic farming at the local campus, which helped me in my business of a herb nursery. This course is no longer available. Also I did evening courses in IT in my small town of Gulgong so I did not have to travel at night. I would have liked to pursue my interests in the fine arts but was unable to do so because of constraints in my life. These courses are now completely out of the question for me because of their affordability / availability. I have known many people who have bettered themselves as a result of TAFE. Many of them studied art and creative courses, allowing them to escape the depression or other ill being they were in, In other cases TAFE has allowed people a second chance of education, having dropped out of school at an early age unqualified. Similarly TAFE has provided opportunities for women to return to the workforce in a more fulfilling way

after raising a family. They have also provided the more disadvantaged members of our community to engage in education to improve their lot in life.

TAFE provides opportunities for :

- people to enrol and graduate from courses that would otherwise be geographically impossible.
- training and new career paths for women who have been out of the workforce raising a family.
- people needing a second chance of education. These are usually the more disadvantaged members of our community.
- provides a new career path as teachers for qualified people who are no longer able to pursue their chosen career.
- allows people to explore their creativity which often improves their wellbeing. This point alone has the potential to greatly reduce the govt health expenditure.

I have known women who were unable to join the workforce, being involved in programs such as New Opportunities for Women and then going on to do more study and leading full productive lives in new careers. I have younger relatives who left school early who went back to TAFE later in life to become qualified as tradesmen. There were many subsidies available for these courses which helped to keep these people at TAFE to complete these studies.

Mudgee TAFE services a large area. The adjacent DubboTAFE campus is over 100 kms away, and Orange is over 2 hours drive away. Several courses are no longer available at Mudgee which disadvantages our region severely. Funding cuts have a lot to answer for.

As I live in a small rural community I am not aware of this happening where i am.
However I do not doubt for a second that this is occurring.

Many of my friends are no longer able to finish courses they have started eg diplomas in ceramics. Other friends have lost their jobs at TAFE or had their hours reduced. The upshot is the variety of courses available at TAFE has been severely diminished.

Friends of mine have spoken to me about being unable to continue their courses because of the massive increase in fees. In some cases they have lost the ability to obtain the diploma they were working towards. Many TAFE teachers i know have lost their jobs, especially in the creative arts field. Others in the IT area have had their hours reduced.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is the lifeblood of our community. It provides a promise of hope for a better future. Creative Arts is a major contributor to the Australian economy. Without a properly funded TAFE system this enormously valuable industry will be severely compromised, and the next generation of artists, writers etc will be truly disadvantaged.

Submitted by

Diane O'Mara of Gulgong

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Nicholas Ernest, of Springwood make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Landscaper, in the postcode of 2777.

I am an older bloke who left school early and with the coming of computers I told myself I would miss out as I was just not bright enough.

TAFE at age 43 taught me computer skills which allowed me to study happily conservation and land management for several years.

I now operate my own landscaping business and use those skills plus much of the course leaning in my business.

And at the time it was practically free. Had it not been I would not have been able to undertake the study and would likely have missed the the most productive time of my life.

Teaching practical skills, helping people to grow self esteem, building relationships.

And most importantly for me learning how build and maintain personal networks and how to communicate with clients.

I was a drunk who at 41 was rapidly failing health wise and next to useless productively, entered a rehabilitation service with the Salvation Army. Once this period was completed I began certificate 1 to get my brain going and after 3 months joined the Diploma course in CALM.

I am now a productive man and no longer a burden to my fellow's.

Fortunately I was able to catch the train from the Blue Mountains to Ultimo.

No I don't take any interest.

For me to return to study now I would put severe strains on our budget. No longer affordable.

Cost increases limiting opportunity.

Publicly run education is the only real option. Profit requirements of business make it very difficult for many to do extra study.

If I was now in the position I was in ten years ago I would have great difficulty achieving what I have.

Leaving school early is often the only option as it was for me, being able to return to education through TAFE enriches us all.

TAFE is very important to me.

Regards Nick Ernest

Submitted by

Nicholas Ernest of Springwood

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Reg Boyle, of Westleigh make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

Reg Boyle
Boree Place
Westleigh
2120
bandb4@optusnet.com.au
02 9481.9977
Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Reg Boyle, of Westleigh make the following statement on the basis of my personal

knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 75 years old and am retired, live at postcode of 2120.

I was born in 1937 still influenced by the depression and then the deprivation of war.

Opportunity for a higher education was financially out of reach in a family of five boys.

During my electrical apprenticeship I had to attend "college" two evening a week for five years and still be at work to clock-in by 7am.

My father had been immobilized by a stroke when I turned 13.

From the extraordinary grounding provided by my "college" I later moved to a higher level of employment requiring still further retraining and my ability to undertake these changes may be laid directly the door of the teachers who helped me in those formative years. Certainly NOT at the door of the company who employed me at 20% of a trades-man's wage. Pure usury.

I have encountered some dreadful condescension from those with upper levels of education, as if those who undertake the real work are lesser beings and I fear this committee to which you refer may be tainted by such superior attitudes.

I have since taught part-time at TAFE and I can assure the reader that my practical comprehension and ability to cut through the crap has been to the benefit of the few students I have encountered,

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means... freedom from educational stagnation and an impetus to discover further layers of education over and above the service industry.

The inflated status of higher education needs to be transferred to those who have to work harder to develop their ability.

The state school I attended in Queensland far surpassed the performance of all schools in the state, including the private ones, which is why it had to be closed and I see a mirror of this action in the down-grading of TAFE.

I only read about them and am desperately aware that such short-sighted attitudes could only come from the condescending products of higher education. Status is important, especially through the years of struggle before melting away to nothing at retirement.

Young people need to see their efforts as respected and valued in the community, not sneered at by those born to such condescension.

I think it has but then I turn 76 in a few days and all I see is a continual undermining of those young people whose potential is being allowed to wither and die. Conservative governments are well known for such neglect.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because if you do-NOT you will be grubbing away the very foundations of Australian Society and the electorate never forgets, as the Thatcher supporters are now finding out.

Submitted by

Reg Boyle of Westleigh

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Submitted by

Reg Boyle of Westleigh

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, George Bonakey, of Bangor make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a TAFE teacher, in the postcode of 2500.

I am a qualified Chartered Architect with more than 30 years professional experience, and 20 years experience as a teacher of Architectural Technology at Wollongong TAFE NSW.

I have contributed countless unpaid hours of my own time to stay abreast with emerging technologies such as Building Information Modelling which I pass on to my students who will need these skill sets in their professional careers. I have experienced first hand what the vocational education policies of both Federal and State governments mean in reality to TAFE students, and I am truly appalled by the mean spirited and misguided views of politicians who have cut TAFE funding to the point where this time honoured and respected institution is in my opinion irreparably damaged.

Many of my former students have built satisfying and profitable careers as a result of the education they obtained through TAFE. This is proof that TAFE works, and changes many lives for the better. TAFE has helped to build our economy, and prosperity.

Now TAFE teachers and support have been told to do more with less, but we have reached the point where it is no longer possible to deliver courses to the same high standard as in the past. Course funding has been cut. Course hours have been cut by as much as 144 hours annually simply because governments refuse to meet their obligations to society. Staff development funding has diminished to the point where teachers such as myself must fund their own professional development to stay current with new technologies. This approach is unsustainable, and if continued, TAFE will effectively cease to exist. This is the reality of government policy!

Australia needs a highly educated and skilled workforce to ensure we remain internationally competitive, and to maintain a robust and resilient economy, and the prosperity we enjoy today.

Ignorant government policy based on flawed ideology is putting all this at risk. The quality of governance in Australia today is lamentable.

We need inspirational leadership as well as talent and vision from our politicians and governments.

Sadly, as evidenced by VET and education policies of both major parties and their leaders, the political talent and will is simply non-existent. Australia deserves better.

TAFE contributes enormously to developing a smart and skilled workforce. It is these skills that build a strong economy. It is these skills that provide national prosperity. It is these skills that keep us internationally competitive.

A small but highly skilled and innovative workforce is essential to Australia's future, and TAFE has been at the very centre of developing the skills needed for the future, especially in those skills involving innovative technologies.

Many of my students could not afford a university education. Many come from disadvantages socioeconomic backgrounds. TAFE provided them with the opportunity to change their lives for the better, by giving them the opportunity to gain skills demanded by industry. Students with disabilities have adapted computer technologies to become productive and employable members of society whereas before the advent of such technologies they would have been compelled to remain on welfare. Only TAFE could achieve results such as this.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means a second chance for disadvantaged members of society. This applies not only to school leavers, but also to mature aged students who want to change careers for a range of reasons such as disabilities, workplace injuries or simply to gain the skills required to enter a more rewarding career option.

The expose of private VET providers in Victoria by the ABC's 7:30 Report showed just how much damage has been done by misguided government VET policy. TAFE colleges in Victoria have been decimated while unscrupulous private providers take advantage of government funding, often disappearing after a very short time leaving students with substandard qualifications, or even halfway through courses, with nowhere else to go. This is now being repeated in other states. Governments do not own TAFE. It belongs to the people, and governments are merely custodians responsible for maintaining this public asset.

Yes. Hours in our course have been slashed from 22 hours per week, to 18 hours per week. Facilities are not being upgraded, class sizes have increased, and staff support services have been cut.

There are no more savings to be had. Further cuts will simply mean that many more course will simply cease to exist.

Yes. In New South Wales, government cuts are destroying TAFE, whilst offering no alternative. The government can no longer rely on the goodwill of teachers and support staff to keep the system afloat by working unpaid hours to make up the shortfall. We have reached the point of no return. Many teachers my age will soon retire, and thee is no succession plan or strategy to replace them. Unless government policy is reversed, there will be no future for TAFE, or the students who rely on TAFE to gain the skills they need for meaningful employment.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because Australia's future prosperity demands a skilled workforce. Education for all must be freely accessible and affordable. Only TAFE can provide such education. The private sector being driven and motivated solely by profit should not be handed control of vocational education to the detriment of TAFE, because they cannot provide the level of skills needed by students and industry. The Victorian experience provides stark testimony to this fact.

Submitted by

George Bonakey of Bangor

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, clem stubbs, of caboolture make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

at the age of 16 went to work at a mine as offsider to many men fitters ,welders ,plumbers,worked with lots of machinery, convayers of all sorts.most of all leant to work with men and make decisions of my own. that was my Tafe .Now when these people want to break up what the Tafe is doing for our young they are going back in time. they are thinking about money to fund the Tafe. they must look to other country who do not put profit first, Train your work force with TAFE for better conditions, better economy, better country.

some people look at their feet when talking maney are in opposition.

WE NEED More Money for the TAFE education Look ahead.

Submitted by

clem stubbs of caboolture

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, John Sandercock, of Hillcrest make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a lecturer, in the postcode of 4101.

TAFE gave me the formal education and skills to move from unemployment to a career in teaching. It has also helped my wife become employed as a book-keeper, by giving her the necessary training to get a job.

The TAFE I work at has an excellent record at getting students their jobs, with industry very keen on employing our graduates. QUT finds their students who start with us constantly perform better than other students.

TAFE allowed me to get the formal education to get out of a closed career into a more exciting future, where I can make a difference, and enjoy my work.

Working as an RTO as well as at TAFE, I realize that there are private RTOs who want to do a good job, but there are many who just want the money. A comment from one RTO was "There should be no problem progressing these students, after all their company would not employ them if they couldn't do it". Obviously, this is wrong. As trainers, we are there to ensure these people get the skills they need, not just assume they have them!

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it makes a difference to people's lives. We have a terrific record in getting people a job. Without us, jobs would go offshore, and more people here would be unemployed.

Submitted by

John Sandercock of Hillcrest

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Lynda Britz, of Fingal Bay make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Teacher, in the postcode of 2315.

Tafe gave me the qualifications to work at a job I enjoyed very much for 15 years, organising small group travel to Asia and Africa.

Tafe gives the training and skills for essential work in our community.

Students who don't see the purpose of a general school education often focus on vocational training.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Those private college courses seem to lack depth and detail, and are overpriced.

Tafe has been trimmed over the past 20 years and a very useful resource has been diminished.

Fees have increased considerably and this may mean some students do not gain qualifications.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is an essential part of the education system

Submitted by

Lynda Britz of Fingal Bay

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Malcolm Butchart, of Annerley make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a fitter, in the postcode of 4103.

I did 3 years at Tafe as part of my apprenticeship.

Tafe gives apprentices the skills to work in their chosen trade. Not all places of work/employers offer the diversity of skills that Tafe does.

I think Tafe gives kids that didn't enjoy school much the chance to still learn and get a trade.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦!

Submitted by

Malcolm Butchart of Annerley

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Richard Simmons, of REDBANK PLAINS make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 4303.

twoof my children received apprenticeship training through TAFE. It gave them the skills to sucessfully compete in the job market.

TAFE delivers quality training that is relevant to current work practices. Private providers to often only care about pushing people through to get a fast buck. TAFE gives real value.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

There is a large increase in students being trained by private providers. These providers provide computer resources where the student trains on line These trainers

provide no practical hands on training have no workshops or tools and can operate out of the boot of a car. Yet receive the same funding per student as TAFE does which provides all resources and and student support.

The local TAFE has recently cut it's arts program.

TAFE is starved for adequate funding this impacts on the training that can be delivered. Many useful programs need to be cut if they are not profitable.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because if we lose TAFE we lose a generation of well trained young people fitted with skills we need to be competitive.

Our educational institutions should be about providing quality training not about making a profit. The value in TAFE is training a future competitive workforce that will contribute to the economy of this great nation. Compromising quality training for a fast buck will cause more problems than it will solve.

Submitted by

Richard Simmons of REDBANK PLAINS

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Margaret Carey, of DULWICH HILL make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Director, in the postcode of 2031.

In the early 1980's I went to East Sydney Tech and spent two years doing an ART Certificate. It was the best and most engaging bout of education I have ever had. It was hands on, practical and inspiring (something even universities miss sometimes). To a large degree it was the professionalism of the teachers that brought life to subjects and I believe that face to face teaching is the most important factor when considering how people learn.

Currently I am the Director of a long day care centre and am horrified by the evidence I see. Many centres now take on trainees but, to get the most work from these trainees, the learning component of the Certificate III in Children's Services is provided by a for-profit training group. Often the theory is all through booklets, and I know that some

organisations now have on line learning, which is as far as I am concerned not even a valid educational experience.

The quality and support received from some of these organisations is appalling. I believe that young people are being exploited by the child care sector, and the quality of their learning is completely compromised. TAFE has always had a great reputation for providing quality training courses, indeed it was once the backbone of everything from butchery to arts.

The TAFE system, and indeed the systems of apprenticeships and traineeships play a fundamental role in the training of young people. It is usually their first encounter with work based training and in a completely different environment to school. It is an organisation that has credibility and should remain as an educational institution that is there to serve the community.

When I went to TAFE all those years ago it was after dropping out of college, then working in the public service but going to East Sydney Tech meant I was able to step into the art world, which I had always be drawn to. This led to continuing with art studied (a Bachelor of Arts) and then a Diploma of Education. TAFE was the place where this career path began.

As I mentioned before I work in the child care sector and the increase in poorly regulated private colleges is glaringly obvious. The standards of both the educational component and the quality of teaching is sadly lacking. It is all about the training college making money, not about supporting students learning. If this is the future of training we are stuffed.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is vital that the skills based training sector is not taken over by poorly run, mismanaged and substandard operators.

Submitted by

Margaret Carey of DULWICH HILL

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Tracy king, of Sunbury make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a security officer, in the postcode of 3429.

My 2 daughters are doing tafe at the moment.

Tafe is needed as an alternate to uni
Practical work skills are taught not uni.
Our teenagers and young adults need to have
Access to skills training in our local areas to keep
Families together and auxiliary monies saved.
Instead of bringing in overseas workers.
We should train our own citizens to give them
Purpose hope great conditions and pride in them selves

And their country.

Tafe has given a friend of mine a better education and is now a Tafe Teacher.

Regional areas would suffer greatly if Tafe's are reduced or cut leaving more unemployed youth to rely on Centrelink benefits.

There are a lot more training organisations that don't provide training to Tafe standards

My children's Tafe fees have risen dramatically since the increases

The increase in fees means I have to work longer and more hours to support them. It has put my retirement back about 4 years.

Higher Tafe fees means I have to work more shifts longer shifts to support them. Probably put my retirement plans back about 4 years

Submitted by

Tracy King of Sunbury

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Hanna Van Hekken Whiteley, of Kirrawee make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Security Guard, in the postcode of 200.

I want to go back to Tafe, and do an adult computer course, so I can change my employment, as I must work until I am 65 and half years old. I must stand for the time that I am working and want to work part time in the are that I live, and I MUST get computer skills to even be looked at.

Tafe has also been around so that any body can go back and study, some people cant get into university this is another way

I have a friend who lives in Lismore had it not been for Tafe he could not have found another job. And learned other skills

No I dont, but I do have friends onces the funding is cut that will make it hard for them to re-educate them self

I cant comment on that

Yes as I am trying to enroll in some courses I am limited to what I can do and when I can do it

Yes I wanted to do some courses and I am unable to find a course

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because, if you cant get into University as least you can do a course that could help you find another job in another field.

Submitted by

Hanna Van Hekken Whiteley of Kirrawee

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Martin Hogan, of Mornington make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a builder, in the postcode of 3931.

I am currently doing Architectural Drafting at Chisholm Institute in Frankston. This is a way of me sharing my knowledge and continuing my contribution to the building & design industry as my physical ability declines.

The rapid adoption of BIM (Building Information Modelling) is an example of structural change and by upgrading my skills I am able to participate. The alternative to ongoing professional development is irrelevance. I have seen a definite improvement in my health and social contribution since engaging in ongoing training.

Our greatest renewable energy resource is our brain.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means I can keep connected to the developments in the industry while still contributing to my community and family at home.

The level of overwork by the teachers at Frankston is palpable. They are obviously underresourced as they are teaching face to face 30 hours a week and more. There is opportunity for more online delivery of teaching material but there is no time for them to develop these resources. Online delivery would be an adjunct to the face to face delivery but it is being hampered by lack of resources.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is industry and jobs focused.

Submitted by

Martin Hogan of Mornington

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Peter LEITH, of Heidelberg West make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a counsellor, in the postcode of 3081.

I am 83 (and a half) years old. All five of my post secondary qualifications were gained from TAFE colleges.

I have eight grandchildren and KNOW that education is the best way to a better life. for them as it has been for me.....

I would like to comment on one aspect of the (many) ways in which gutting the TAFE system is damaging Australia...

I live close to the Bell Street Mall and NMIT Building Trades campus on Bell Street.... Since the Victorian Government cut TAFE funding there are many fewer young men and women in the Bell Street Mall at morning tea and lunch times....

There are also many MORE young people hanging around The Mall at other times of

the day with nothing to do...

Apart from its other damaging side effects cutting TAFE funding WILL lead to an increase in juvenile delinquency and crime...

Contacts in the Juvenile Justice system tell me that this is already happening....
Peter Leith.

.see above.....

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...Not Applicable....

I used to work at Fairfield and discovered a plethora of "colleges" offering "qualifications" in such trades as hospitality and Hairdressing to (largely) people of a non-English speaking background. Speaking with many of them I found them to be dissatisfied with the high fees charged for "skills training" that was not marketable.....

see above.....

... Swinburn has closed its Lilydale Campus. The sole TAG+FE provider for a large area of outer Melbourne....Other TAFES, such as NMIT have cut the number of their Courses....

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦!

1. Australia will NEVER be "the smart country" without a strong, viable TAFE sector.
2. Youth unemployment, delinquency and juvenile crime will increase.
3. In five years time we will HAVE TO import skilled labour

Submitted by

Peter LEITH of Heidelberg West

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Rebecca Davey, of Kilsyth make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a library technician, in the postcode of 3137.

When I left school, I knew I didn't want to go to university because I am not an academic person. When I learnt about the Library Technician Certificate running at the TAFE near where I lived, it seemed the perfect fit as it gave me the opportunity to learn and then put my learning in to place immediately through the work experience programme.

As a hands on learner, this method of training suited me well, and the skills that I learnt at TAFE have allowed me to work in a wide variety of libraries around Australia and in England. I've stayed working in the industry my entire life, upgrading my qualifications at TAFE as further training became available.

My TAFE training set me up for life - it gave me the opportunity to take part in meaningful employment, to contribute to society. I now work in a TAFE library, so I am

able to play a part in the education of other hands on learners, who in turn will go on to employment and a fulfilling life.

People will always want to learn in different ways, and being able to study at TAFE give less academic people, such as myself, the opportunity to learn in a supportive environment. Trade training is ideally offered in TAFE, where the teachers have mostly worked in the industry themselves before coming in to teaching, so they can prepare the apprentices for the workplace in a meaningful way. Trainees have already experienced repairing or testing a piece of equipment before they get to the workplace, so can offer more value to their employers.

Studying at TAFE also gives people the opportunity to progress to further study, to improve their skills and employability at a higher level.

Studying at TAFE also enables affordable training to the disadvantaged and disenfranchised within our communities. With subsidised training, students have access to a range of support services, which can allow them to overcome otherwise insurmountable obstacles, and go on to meaningful work and life.

Studying at TAFE also means that employers can be sure that training is done to a high national or state standard, as the delivery of training is monitored carefully. TAFEs have established relationships with industry and can therefore respond to changes in training requirements.

Budget cuts have resulted in course cuts at the TAFE where I work. The first course cuts happened shortly after the budget cuts were announced in May 2012, and the announcement of teacher cuts came soon after. Support services were cut soon after with my own area having to lose 6 staff from a total of 35. This has resulted in a reduction of services to staff and students at the campuses. In December 2012 there

were further course cuts announced, and more staff were laid off.

My TAFE is still offering study support - it's a service that will make a difference to whether a student completes their studies, or drops out because they feel they can't succeed. They have obviously realised that it's an investment that they need to make to ensure students get the best possible outcome for their enrolment, even though funding for these services has been dismantled.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because training offered at TAFE is well rounded and designed for hands on learners, it is relevant to the industry, and properly monitored for quality and assurance. Most importantly, TAFE education should be the government's investment in the future of the state and the country's skills education.

Submitted by

Rebecca Davey of Kilsyth

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Suellen Sellwood, of Maryborough make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Technician, in the postcode of 4650.

Moving to a regional area and being a single working parent, TAFE was the most accessible and flexible avenue for me to complete 2 Certificate IV courses related to my current employment. With credit transfer and RPL from my previous University studies, I completed one Cert IV in six months.

Both my children have also completed further studies via TAFE. One at Diploma level, the other a trade certificate.

Employers of today want multi-skilled employees with the ability to keep up-to-date with technology. The range of short courses available at TAFE can provide those skills.

When my friend a qualified chef was widowed, she couldn't keep working the

unsociable hours required and find suitable childcare for her 2 young children. She had to quit her job and rely on Government benefits for the family income. She volunteered at her children's primary school as a parent helper and a year later was offered employment as a part-time teacher aide. She undertook a certificate of early childhood education via TAFE and now has permanent employment with Education QLD.

TAFE is the only avenue for tertiary education in most regional areas.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because not everyone needs a University Degree to be a skilled employee.

Submitted by

Suellen Sellwood of Maryborough

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Alexander Mackenzie, of Granville make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a horticulturist, in the postcode of 2142.

Without TAFE I would never have been able to go on to further education at university. TAFE also kept me engaged during a long period of underemployment and gave me the confidence to pursue my dreams.

TAFE provides an alternative means to achieving life goals and a means of keeping the disillusioned engaged with broader society. The attainment of skills in an encouraging environment can make the difference between a productive member of society and someone who relies on government handouts.

I left school early due to family issues but was able to continue learning through attending short courses at TAFE and also external studies. When I decided to pursue

my dreams of further education to attain a higher qualification TAFE provided the means via the Tertiary Preparation Certificate. This ultimately lead to me receiving a Degree at the University of Technology, Sydney which has in turn provided the platform for a successful career in local government.

I currently reside in Sydney but it was a country town TAFE (Armidale) that gave me the opportunity to pursue further education.

Yes, I've done work sponsored courses elsewhere to attain various tickets (eg: chemical application, traffic control) and have been disgusted by the lack of detail as the "non essential" was ignored or rushed through so everyone could go home early.

I am aware of the stress that cutbacks are undermining the morale of staff with consequent implication for the quality of education being provided.

In my experience TAFE has been the means of providing education, skill attainment and enhancement and community cohesion in both city and country areas. The disempowerment of the TAFE system through ongoing funding cuts threatens the very fabric that holds together our society.

I believe it is essential that the TAFE sector is funded for the future of our society. It provides a means of reengaging those who were not able to succeed at school and ensures their own particular gifts are given the opportunity to flourish. TAFE also provides a means of refreshing those who want to continue to learn, often in a very practical way, without the financial and higher learning stresses associated with university study.

Submitted by

Alexander Mackenzie of Granville

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Nikki Campbell, of Toowong make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a library technician, in the postcode of 4066.

At the age of 44 I started a TAFE course, I'd left school at 16, so it was a daunting idea to begin study again. It was a very positive experience, although it took me 5 years part time to complete a 2 year full time diploma, I'm extremely grateful that this was available. I have worked in the industry from the year I started my Library and Information Services diploma. I love the work I do, it is a career. Work in the past was just a job to make ends meet and that was difficult as unskilled work is not well paid.

My daughter has also completed 2 diplomas - Music (performance) and Music Business. She is glowing in her praise for the system, lecturers and institution. She has also spent time at university and found that the TAFE system suits her better, a more personal and considered approach, ensuring that everyone is keeping pace, lots of

practical experience to instill confidence, supportive staff who have a lot of experience in the industry.

A university education is not for everybody. Nor should it be. Although jobs today are ever evolving it does not mean that the way through is the same either. A better skilled workforce will be practical as well as theoretical. TAFE is a great way to upgrade and retrain too. I know various people with degrees eg architects who attended TAFE for project management courses.

I have also had personal experience at another local TAFE where I was unable to continue a course as the cuts to classes were so severe, that 10 people were unable to enrol in the class as it had reached it's capacity. The full time lecturer's teaching hours were cut as he is paid less if he is not doing face to face teaching. So we have a lecturer going to work 5 days a week, but instructing students for only two. Courses were combined, there were too many students, resources and studios were empty for more than 50% of the time. What a shocking state of affairs, so wasteful.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is a shortsighted strategy for saving money. What investment for the future? It takes a long time to build systems that are functional, useful and viable, easy to pull them down, but costly and slow to rebuild.

Submitted by

Nikki Campbell of Toowong

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Ken Wildy, of Sydney make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Retired Nurse; , in the postcode of 2160.

Our family constructed Trade Schools in W A> I attended Trade School [TAFE] Cadet Builder.(Leederville Tech) Served Apprenticeship in WA. Taught my traditional ancient stained glass skills to 'pre-apprentice' crews & 4 yrs Night Adult School[TAFE].

Structured TAFE course. Taught TRADE skills at Karnett Prison Farm WA. Attended ULTIMO TAFE(Syd) more study. These skills [shared and learnt] gave me chance to complete unique works and represent 'MY AUSTRALIA' via AUSTRADE in Singapore & H/Kong Aussie Expos x 2. I exported because I WAS TAUGHT AT our TAFE Facilities. My trade-expertise gained me a Churchill Fellowship. TAFE is not "just about trade skills". It gives direction/correct focus/ care for your fellow mates...male or female. Sure taught values of needing good skills and not being some 'dork' who claims to "know it all" and can't tell you if they need a hammer, shovel, or drill bit. :)

Skills can be learnt every day in any setting, IF you retain an open-mind. It is so so very real:- **If the student is not better than the teacher..then the teaching has failed** At TAFE with correct pedagogy and less of the crap some go with, life skills / via TAFE/ will give our work-force an advanced and greater capacity to advance. Be they in trade, health, and the full arena of Courses, teachers MUST be retained and not reduced. And many courses and skills do ""interface and cross-over their uniqueness and VALUE-ADD"". Now that is being ***Oh so smart and diverse***.

Schools in the past were based on 'student learning what our traditions were about'. Too few had trades taught< If you dared wanted to or asked for them; in most cases you were "shunned told you were silly or stupid." Not everyone can LEARN via books. FACT:- Communication is 16.78 % verbal..the remainder is 'body-language'. ""DROP-OUTS did take place absconding petty-crime lead to more serious types"" .>> Middle Eastern kids I know are undertaking TAFE..2nd Chance for them..good citizens/kind/respectful/supportive of their ill mum/never any social issues. These programs were not at their 'places of learning = standard high school. THEY next want to go to UNI...awesome and I help them in anyway I can.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means... Simply put, if any State Govt abuses the Federal Education advancements now underway, they need to be "replaced and Stood-Down". Liberal 'cat-scratching' carries many known and unknown pathogens. Hon B O' Farrell MP can't treat our next generation like the past one was. SKILLS KNOWLEDGE TEACHING [not meant to replace parenting :(] is essential. I would not have gained my skills without discipline I was TAUGHT @ TAFE... no way. Learning and teaching is not "" All about the \$\$\$\$ fixation of petty-political 'media propaganda negativity' to me that is in 2013 utter abuse and verging on criminality by assuming we, the population are ill-educated and dumb. Cut or slash it is not acceptable in N S W or Australia.

Can't comment as I do not attend. I can report, based on kids I know, and media reports via well informed teachers that 'have been stood down', Private Colleges that once relied on good teachers due to 'generic faith based Colleges' dedicated via 'a vocational calling', no \$\$\$'s required :) don't exist now. Sadly, money is the fixation and driving force. This must cease, as too few have the entire range of 'capacity' that is needed in 2013 and onward. To me, the entire education system for better skills, greater expanded teaching needs to have ""open-eyes"" share it all; as we live in an open society and have rights in this democracy. Or is it an autocracy of domination by the rich vs lower social strata i.e. 'working classes' ? Why not have total share? Kids are kids...don't rob them of that freedom and impose ADULT TWISTED MINDSETS please. Thank you.

Agreed in so many ways. Syd Uni Campus OMG food-outlets r so so expensive; disgusting prices. Students do go without food. Campus staff do so much that is 'not in job description'. Cut --- slash even online courses hv been reduced. How can anyone in Rural Australia get ahead that way Mr 'Liberal' B O' F ? Education is now a foot-ball..wrong.

Yes, as new-job seekers, even after TAFE and still doing TAFE studies, work 2-3 jobs to exist with increased Liberal NSW Govt inflicted hardship. AND with respect, it is all too political and NOT student or educationally focused. "AGENDA AGENDA". Total crap, smoke screen diatribe. What was close-by, now added travel time needed. Lack of home-life and that heads to 'sleep deprivation + anxiety increase' in any home.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦ of the above and Oh as a past teacher, nurse and a remaining Unionist, I could write a booklet on this issue.

Submitted by

Ken Wildy of Sydney

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Wendy O'Brien, of Flinders make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retired, in the postcode of 2529.

I worked for 30 years in the area of Special Needs Education and have now retired.

Not every school leaver is destined for a university education but all school leavers ARE entitled to further training to enable them to contribute fully to the community in which they live and to the country as a whole.

In my experience, TAFE was an invaluable part of the developing education of both Year 10 and senior students with particular learning and health issues that may have impacted on their futures in the workforce. I was able to liaise with excellent TAFE teachers and coordinators who helped me organise courses, on the job training and counselling whilst students were at school and continuing support when they left.

Absolutely INVALUABLE!

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I live in the Illawarra so there is no problem - at the moment! (Although I am not aware of course deletions etc.) It would be disastrous if this were to change.

I am not in a position to comment except to say there are a number of such institutions in the area.

Because I am no longer in education, I cannot comment.

I am unable to comment.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because ALL students, no matter what their abilities are, deserve the very best further education the state can offer. It is imperative that students be given the opportunity to attend a government run institution that is above reproach and cannot fall into the traps of self promotion and financial gain for the individuals or groups running them. ALL students should be given a level playing field on which to learn. I fear that this ideal would be severely jeopardised if TAFE were to be downgraded or if it were to be disbanded in favour of private providers. This is possibly one of the most serious cuts to education a state government could make and merely for the financial effects on the government purse. Don't let them play with TAFE and the excellent role it has always played in educating young people.â€¦

Submitted by

Wendy O'Brien of Flinders

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Irene Snow, of Bayswater make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retired, in the postcode of 6053.

I went to tafe in my 50's to improve my job prospects and attained a cert 3 in Human Services (disability) I worked in that field for 20 years until retirement. I have also learnt computers 30 yrs ago and two languages

It is very important for education when formal education has finished. It is important for new arrivals to the country to assimilate and for unemployed to gain new skills.

As I was at home raising children for a long time my previous skills had become obsolete I was able to re-skill and importantly accrue superannuation which is improving my retirement

I previously lived in a regional area where Tafe was very important as the only tertiary education

no

no not aware

haven't any knowledge of this but am sure it would have impacted

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is such a vital way to improve the living standards of many older australians as well as the young

Submitted by

Irene Snow of Bayswater

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, , of Canterbury make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I attended a country Technical school. My Father was a very good farmer and he increased his skills by attending the Tafe component of the Technical school to become a skilled welder, using these skills on his farm for the rest of his life. I continued my schooling and worked in the clothing industry. I finally became a teacher later in life. Most of my students went from the "textile" stream we offered at their school to a Tafe college.....many to Boxhill[Clothing] But I remember one student in particular who lived in Oakleigh who was so keen to attend a Tafe in Coburg that she worked every weekend of her VCE years to buy a car to be able to drive to Coburg every day. She is now in a senior management with a leading clothing retailer. Tafe colleges offer a unique niche in an education system that needs a "knowledge with skill" base that is not offered in any other education stream. As far as I know the only educational facility in Victoria that teaches a practical hands on skill base suitable for a student to work in the many aspects of the so called "rag trade" is a Tafe college.

Submitted by

of Canterbury

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Phillip Stock, of Rosslea make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Fabricator, in the postcode of 4812.

As well as the 24 core competencies of my Boilermaking trade, I have completed many TAFE courses and RPL certifications thru the TAFE system.

People nowadays have many changes in career paths and need the availability of TAFE to enable this to occur, particularly when there has been forced redundancies. I have a fifteen year old son who has never really fit into the public school system however he is not stupid and has the ability to learn from a format like the TAFE system offers.

As Above.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦this may well be the only chance people like my son will have to pick up the skills required to be a valuable member of the community.

Submitted by

Phillip Stock of Rosslea

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Matt Kay, of Kogarah make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a student, in the postcode of 2217.

I've always pursued study in my spare time as much as work would allow - our system here in Australia has allowed me to do so.

I'm really getting a lot out of my current study at TAFE.

Society requires people with skills - skills require training - training requires teachers and somewhere to teach.

Hardly Rocket Science - although this too must be taught.

After finding myself Medically Retired from my old job after 25 years, I wanted to retrain - TAFE offered me that opportunity.

N/A - I live in a part of Sydney with a lot of educational options.

Yes - there's a multitude of dodgy 'Colleges' operating in Sydney's CBD whose sole purpose seems to be taking the money of foreign students.

The cuts haven't hit home yet at my TAFE (Petersham), but our teachers are all talking about 'restructuring' and looking worried.

I haven't seen this yet, but clearly it is on the way unless a rethink of current slash & burn policies happens.

Making education available to every person is a cornerstone of real democracy - and in purely economic terms, a State without a skilled and knowledgeable populace is doomed.

Submitted by

Matt Kay of Kogarah

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Ian MacLeod, of Kingston make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retiree, in the postcode of 4114.

Have hoped to but so far haven't

Tafe teaches the tech side of the trade, a side that the boss doesn't want to be bothered with because they are concerned only with whether you can do the hands on stuff at a profit for them

Tafe gave me my first chance because I realised that I could learn more about the trade than the boss.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...I had to do the Tafe course by correspondence

Yes I have . They do the teaching for profit, so that's the motivation not the passing on of knowledge as it should be.

I have noticed that seniors who used to be able to do courses for free now have to pay.

I believe that the negative changes to Tafe, funding , shortening the courses have led to less complete trades people in that all facets are not covered adequately.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€if it is not it can lead to more importation of properly trained people,the deskilling of trades so that people trained in only part of the trade are employed (at a lower rate) to produce. Our youth are worth it, I see too many of them wandering aimlessly as I may have done myself if not properly trained by good men and the Tafe training system.

Submitted by

Ian MacLeod of Kingston

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Cath Fisher, of Diamond Creek make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Social Worker, in the postcode of 3081.

I am a single mother to two teenage boys. My youngest son is currently in year 11 and my eldest completed VCE last year. His lifelong dream has been to become an architect like his grandfather, however he struggled at high school and his ENTER scores were not high enough for him to access any university courses and far from what was required for Architecture. Fortunately, he became aware of an excellent course in Architectural Building Design available at NMIT at the local campus in Greensborough. He was accepted into the course and has been thriving in the TAFE environment. He loves going to TAFE and for the first time he is happy and animated when discussing what he has been learning in his course. He has become motivated to learn and feels very supported by his teachers, whom he considers mentors and role models. He was devastated to learn that the campus is closing. I was very confused to

read in the local Diamond Valley Leader that the campus was being sold to Swinburne because it was difficult for students to access on public transport. I'm not sure how it will magically become easier to access when it's Swinburne instead of NMIT. We live about 5 minutes' drive from the campus. My son can catch the train and walk 20 minutes' from Greensborough station. That's hardly inconvenient! He has been advised that the Architectural Building Design course is available at the Preston and Epping campuses but that the students will not be guaranteed a place.

I am seeing my shy and reserved son blossoming in the TAFE system. He is eager to learn and enthusiastic about his course, already making plans for the future and talking about how he wants to learn to work in safe, environmentally sustainable buildings for the bushfire prone areas of our community. He is developing the potential to make an amazing difference to others and I would be devastated if this opportunity is taken from him.

My son would be sitting at home on the dole if it was not for TAFE. He did not get into any university courses and plunged into a horrible depression after he completed VCE and received his poor results. He is a bright and intelligent kid but did not do well at high school. Suddenly he is thriving at TAFE and I am so happy and relieved to see him doing so well and being so enthusiastic and passionate about his course and the wonderful teachers.

We live in Diamond Creek - not a rural area but an outer/interface suburb.

Greensborough NMIT is very close to home. I am a sole parent, working part time and supporting 2 teenagers. Having a close by TAFE means that I don't have to worry about the additional costs of public transport as I can drop my son at TAFE on my way to work and he can get a lift home in the afternoon. it may sound like a small thing but for someone who is struggling to make ends meet, it makes a huge difference.

In my job as a social worker, I often work with young people who attend private colleges. They are a nightmare to deal with as they do not have any proper student welfare facilities and do not offer support to students who are in hardship or experiencing personal problems. They do not offer any assistance to obtain employment after graduation and many students report that their qualifications are not held in high regard by potential employers.

Greensborough NMIT is closing and my son will be forced to try and find somewhere else to complete his studies.

As above. My son's TAFE is closing. I am worried about what will happen to him if he cannot get into another course.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because

So many young people do not function well in the university system and are at risk of being denied further education. My experience of TAFE has always been of an excellent hands on training in essential skills. For the first time in his life, my son is loving studying and he is doing well at TAFE. I was finally confident that he was going to receive a good education and be able to pursue his dream of eventually becoming an architect, which is all he has ever wanted to do since he was a little boy playing with lego. University was not an option for him and TAFE was a Godsend. I feel crushed that his dream was almost in sight and is now being taken from him.

Submitted by

Cath Fisher of Diamond Creek

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Ian Clifton, of Blair Athol make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Contract Manager / Inspector, in the postcode of 5098.

I have done my Motor Mechanic apprenticeship and Associate Diploma in Mechanical Engineering at TAFE

TAFE has been an independent source of education, fairly well up to date with technology and has been a one stop for a lot of non brand training.

Some private suppliers of training have had poorer training machinery and / or are biased toward a brand or method connected to a Company than TAFE that appears unbiased.

Some TAFE staff appear more stressed due to uncertain futures

TAFE does not appear to have the funds to keep up with new technology as much as they used to and staff enthusiasm is lacking.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need an excellent supply of trained and motivated people to carry on the work passed and current generations are handing down to them.

Submitted by

Ian Clifton of Blair Athol

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, John Forrest, of Annandale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retired, in the postcode of 2038.

I completed an apprenticeship in Aeronautical Engineering with Bristol Aero Engines (later Rolls Royce Aero Engines) in UK, and migrated, first to Canada and the USA, later to Australia. I was naturalised Australian in 1983. I retired from work finally 10 years ago.

My story tells it all - of course it contributes to skills formation; it is vital for anyone hoping to improve their skills and contribute more to the economy.

After a 40 year career in Mechanical Engineering, in 1997 I was employed as a (Contract) Mechanical Design Draftsman with Trans Research Pty Ltd in North Ryde. I was a 'pencil and paper' draftsman, and the company was converting to CAD so I was

'let go'. At age 57, I applied to TAFE to learn CAD, and after 6 months of study I graduated and returned to work in Mechanical Engineering, and was able to remain happily productive for another 6 years. Thanks to TAFE.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because so many people in industry desire to improve their skills and thereby improve their earning capacity, retain jobs, and have the personal satisfaction of doing their job well. Only TAFE can serve that need well.

Submitted by

John Forrest of Annandale

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Scott Cunningham, of Bluff Point make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Anaesthetic technician, in the postcode of 6530.

I have been carrying out this role for 30 years, Tafe was a important stepping stone in the progression of my education as in my school years I struggled, Tafe was able to provide me with the under standing of my key direction in life.

Tafe provides apprentices the oportunity to mingle and discuss work place practice and provides balance to there learning, minimizing poor work place practice slipping into a culture.

My son diagnosed with ADHD went through many difficulties and it wasn't until Tafe that he became self directed and confident.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...a significant limitation on the whole community moving forward... Reduction in young people's opportunity, an increase in anti social behavior and reduction of a balanced and vibrant communities. It means the separation of families to provide opportunities and the depopulation of communities.

Just look at all the shonky web based collages that are recruiting young people starved of opportunity. Although I am looking to attain a university qualification, I have sifted through many online courses promising accepted qualifications for little study a not unreasonable sum of money.

Cuts are affecting everything regionally.

Poor morale, infra structure poorly maintained reduction in offered courses.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is a essential element of regional communities Being able to provide opportunities and to retain its population both physically and mentally.

Submitted by

Scott Cunningham of Bluff Point

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Andrew Elder, of Norton Summit make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a oil/gas operatto, in the postcode of 5136.

I have worked in the oil/gas industry for 25 years, without study through TAFE my skills would not be nationally recognised.

My company and others in the industry collaborated with TAFE to build a national framework so that oil/gas workers could be assessed against the learning framework to gain qualifications which never existed previously.

TARE has allowed me to gain skills and recognition which allow me to have more options for employment

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I'm assuming the "Kellogg's Certificate for attendance". The need to have regulation and standards and also auditing in education is paramount to a productive workforce.

We had to go interstate for the courses

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it's the only option for further education and if it's not well funded it will fall apart which leaves an unskilled workforce, thus goes against the government's desire for low unemployment. High unemployment means less tax payers and more reliance on welfare.

Submitted by

Andrew Elder of Norton Summit

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Valerie Lester, of Blackburn South make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 3136.

I am a TAFE teacher Migrant English, Croydon Campus, Swinburne TAFE. I have been an ESL teacher for over 30 years. My current students, (mainly refugees from Burma) benefit greatly from their courses at Swinburne TAFE, not only from the great teaching (which includes settlement topics) and pastoral care from an extremely empathetic, patient staff, but from the services available on campus, such as an extremely caring nurse who makes an enormous effort to get to know students personally. This is particularly important as our students are not the healthiest. The nurse also assists teachers with health education -greatly needed for vulnerable people. Also there are the librarians who are also empathetic to student needs, career counsellors and counsellors whom we can call on to support our teaching and students. This all helps to get people fit, confident and ready to enter the workforce. If

we were to lose TAFES to cut-throat RTOs our students would be lost. There would be even more casualisation, lower pay, even bigger classes which would mean less commitment from teachers. Even in a down-sized TAFE we have already lost 2 senior educators in our section which means more of the admin is loaded on to teachers. We already enrol, withdraw and this is all with continuous enrolment ! and have other duties.

On another note my teenage daughter had the opportunity to do a semester in hairdressing at Box Hill TAFE in year 9. Although ultimately this was not her chosen profession the course gave her some good employment skills and confidence.

As I mentioned above, support services in TAFE as well as excellent teaching play a key role in contributing to a smart and strong workforce

My Burmese refugee students, locked up in a refugee camp for most of their lives often blossom after doing a couple of semesters at TAFE. There are so many good stories which appear in the local press such as the father and son (Burmese) who were employed by a local landscaping company. The manager couldn't have praised their work ethic more. The students who have managed to get jobs using the strategies they have been taught in class at a Swin employment forum/ with a volunteer tutor or talk by a Careers Counsellor in class, are numerous

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...you are getting up in the morning to engage in some form of education, have a pathway to self esteem, another course maybe and a job eventually. When Swinburne Lilydale closes we will see far more disengaged youth on the street.

Yes. One just needed to view a 7.30 report or perhaps 4 Corners ABC documentary last year on the dodgy delivery of courses at an RTO in Oakleigh - a woman who had

enrolled in a hospitality course was sent to a childcare course as there was no teacher or enough students to fill the course; discontented teachers not being paid and on it went. NO PASTORAL CARE . Just a money-grab

Yes as mentioned above, we lost 2 of our senior educators last year and have retained one on a small fraction. She now has to teach for most of the week and is pretty stretched. We don't get timely responses from management or much help to do more admin, workplans online. The result is more admin and more unpaid hours for teachers. Most of us are part-time or casual

Yes as above.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because if it isn't we will witness a total degeneration of our society - lack of skills, more crime, more greed, less care.

Submitted by

Valerie Lester of Blackburn South

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, deborah bonham, of narraweena make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a counsellor, in the postcode of 2099.

i am now on a disability pension following an operation. i really wanted to study art and photography at tafe to enrich my life. Now since recent changes and cuts this is now unaffordable. they dont cut back on politicians pensions and wages. its very short sighted and unfair. education matters please reverse the recent destructive .changes made by barry o farrell

tafe has made education ,skills and training ie work and financial life accessible to mainstream society. As a society we need this resource.

many people I know have recieved a second chance being able to afford to study at tafe.(to either complete their hsc when it was not tenable at school age and to provide

a career pathway in the arts and in trades.

being on a low income, to go to TAFE means and opportunity to connect with the community, develop and consolidate talents.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because "affordable education is life!"

Submitted by

deborah bonham of narraweena

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Ray Johnston, of Minchinbury make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Caretaker for Community Rooms, in the postcode of 2770.

I was not able to take part in a TAFE course in my early years, but over the years I realised the importance of Vocational Training by undertaking some courses, TAE Cert IV Workplace Trainer Assessor, and Level II Union Delegate. Both these courses have helped me in my role as an Officer in a Volunteer Emergency Service and my paid employment.

There is always talk of helping youth unemployment but neither the Government or Employers act on it. This is our future if our youth and mature workers can't improve their position in life what hope has the Country as a Nation moving forward and growing.

If any course is not available for the youth or low paid workers, they have no hope of improving their position in society we will have a true third world status of the have and have nots.

No I live in the Outer West and services have already been cut, which means travel to other parts of the greater Sydney area, which is very time intensive.

Yes and charge more for less.

Courses not cut but shut down

As above what hope has the youth got but to stay in an unemployment rut and the well offs complaining about lazy youth

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded and that employers and industry come back to basics and impliment apprenticeships and trainee ships programs. Just remember that if you have no future workers coming through then there is no future for you or this Country.

Submitted by

Ray Johnston of Minchinbury

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Pamela Atkinson, of Bellbird Park make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 4300.

I have been a learning support teacher in a middle school for the last ten years and have personally seen what a difference TAFE has made to the lives of many young students who were struggling at mainstream classes, so much so that they didn't want to be at school, but when they were able to get some TAFE courses instead, their whole attitude and demeanor changed and they felt useful and successful. Without TAFE, many would have become delinquents.

I have seen young people gain confidence and maturity through TAFE and become skillful members of the workforce in many trades that all support Australia's economy in so many ways.

I have noticed that many valuable schemes that get students into the workforce have been or are being cut and I shudder to think what many students will do without them.

At our school many students were diverted to TAFE courses but will now be stuck at school doing subjects they hate.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the future of so many young people depends on a strong skills based education that is practical and relevant.

Submitted by

Pamela Atkinson of Bellbird Park

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Helen McLennan, of Balwyn North make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a RN, in the postcode of 3104.

The biggest tragedy of the Australian workforce has been the limitations put on apprenticeships with the result that we have to import foreign workers to fill our trade positions. This is a longstanding problem that has yet to be fully addressed by any governments. Why should we limit anyones potential by having such lack of alternative when facing future career options. Not everyone wants to be a university graduate but they still need learning and preparation for a career that will set them up for a fulfilling future.

Tafe has given me opportunities to study other skills which enhance my chosen career

I live in the city but have concern that those who live in more remote areas should have access to tafe

I read of rip-off schemes all the time relating to private education colleges that leave people stranded after fleecing them of their finances

Budget cuts lead to less choice for learning and more pressures financially and socially

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because our school leavers need the opportunity to build a future that is secure, this enables people to lead a socially productive life in an occupation of their choice

Submitted by

Helen McLennan of Balwyn North

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Kay Kanaar, of Bangalee make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a part time teacher, in the postcode of 2541.

I have taught for TAFE NSW for 24 years as both a part time and full time teacher and am very aware of the valuable contribution it makes to the lives of a diverse group of people including teenagers, women, retrenched workers, apprentices, people with disabilities, people with literacy and numeracy problems, employers, employees, single mothers, my own son, my mother, my sisters, my husband and the list goes on. In rural communities such as my own it is the lifeline to lifelong education.

I constantly receive feedback from ex students and their families about the difference I have made to their TAFE participant's life - new opportunities, a different future - one which has allowed them to fulfil their potential and given them job satisfaction and an opportunity to contribute to the Australian workforce and community as a whole

The list is innumerable but only yesterday I was talking to the wife of an mature age exstudent and he is now an engineer thanks to his TAFE qualification allowing him entry into university. His wife is now also a marture age student.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means young and older people are not missing out on a firts class education in specialised and general fields

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because in regional communities it is integral to a diverse group of people's educational lives and in offering them opportunities they otherwise would miss out on

Submitted by

Kay Kanaar of Bangalee

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Angela Carter, of Diamond Creek make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Disability worker for 20 years, in the postcode of 3089.

I have 2 children with learning disabilities and my eldest son is 19 and currently going to TAFE studying music. Previous to this he completed yr 12 by participating in VCAL, that relies on TAFE based courses. This is the only way that he would ever have been able to complete his education, or continue after year 12. These opportunities have led to him feeling like he is valued, improved his self esteem, and kept him at school with social connections that are vital to self-esteem, and social awareness. Had he not had these opportunities through TAFE, I have no doubt that he would be relying on Centrelink, and would have experienced serious mental health conditions related to lack of self esteem and depression. I have enormous concerns for my 15 yr old son who may not have these choices and will be forced out of the education system by year 9, unable to complete curriculum due to his learning disabilities, that he receives

no support for. This is intolerable and should not happen in a country like ours.

TAFE provides opportunities for individuals to change their skills to move from one career to another, and in a world with such constant downsizing and industrial change, this is not just a bonus but an essential need for our society. It allows people to 'have a go' and try different things to find the career they are able to excel in and become contributing members of society.

The removal of TAFE programs will undoubtedly cause an increased burden unsustainable on Centrelink support due to inaccessibility to affordable training opportunities. In turn, an increase in mental health conditions, drug and alcohol use, and crime will far outweigh the costs of maintaining the TAFE sector.

I know many people who have returned to the workforce either after having had children, or through redundancy only because they were able to participate in education/training at a TAFE.

My son was only able to finish his education because of TAFE.

I work in the disability sector, and have noticed the decline in staff undertaking advanced training due to the fee increases that have just occurred. The DHS is unable to recruit to Supervisory positions critical to service delivery due to a lack of staff with minimum qualifications that are just inaccessible now. The disability sector is also effected by the removal of minimum qualification courses across the sector, and the complete loss of disability specific courses. This will create a workforce that can not meet standards of care and service delivery to one of the most disadvantaged groups in our community.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because I don't want a country that does not believe education and retraining should be accessible and affordable to everyone, regardless of socio economic, cultural or disability status.

I want a country that thinks its important to increase the contribution people can make by providing opportunities that allow them to continue in the workforce, and be valued members of society.

I want a country that sees that funding cuts to such a sector only result in funding needs in other sectors due to hardships and unemployment. These cuts will only cause increases to Mental health services, Centrelink use, needs for family therapy, increases in reduced service delivery and Regional area employment.

THIS IS NOT JUST ABOUT TAFE- IT IS ABOUT SOCIETY FUNCTIONING!

Submitted by

Angela Carter of Diamond Creek

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Padraig Dorrigan, of Meadowbank make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Community Support Worker, in the postcode of 2124.

TAFE is a truly amazing institution and it gave me the opportunity to work in a profession I love. However, more importantly as someone who struggled academically in high school it also provided me with an alternative to university where I could build confidence and learn some basic skills that I missed in primary and high school. The teachers were all understanding and very supportive. TAFE has fundamentally shaped my life for the better and enabled me to contribute to society in a way that would not have been possible without it. To this day I constantly talk up the virtues of TAFE to my friends and am always disheartened to hear funding is being cut. I feel there are countless people in my situation that should be able to gain the same benefits from TAFE that I have been fortunate enough to have received.

TAFE is incredibly practical focused and cuts through all the abstract concepts that other academic institutions can get bogged down in and teaches invaluable skills that I use on a daily basis in my current (and also former) jobs. Without the education I received at TAFE I would not have the skills or confidence to contribute to the Australian workforce as I do today and have done for the last decade.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it provides absolutely invaluable skill and education to people that otherwise can fall between the cracks in Australian educational system. It is an educational safety net that not only adds to the self worth of individuals completing course but also contributes greatly to the productivity of the Australian economy. Furthermore, it has a hugely positive impact on Australia's cultural landscape through the diverse range of courses on offer. Australia benefits from TAFE in ways that are rarely fully recognised and it is a true tragedy that it is constantly facing funding cuts that are short sighted and based on a fundamental ignorance of the importance of TAFE within Australian society.

Submitted by

Padraig Dorrigan of Meadowbank

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Clarice Ballenden, of Caulfield North make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Executive Coach, in the postcode of 3000.

I was a secondary school teacher for many years. My Masters degree (Monash 1982) focused on options for girls not provided by schools as well as alternatives to University for those not academically inclined.

TAFE has provided meaningful opportunities and subsequently employment for many girls and women. Without the TAFE options many will now be unqualified, out of work or stuck in dead end casual jobs. The cost to the economy and to society as a whole is considerable. Besides the social inequity there is an economic cost. We lose the skills of many young people, they become alienated and often hostile. It might be worth monitoring the number of early pregnancies in the cohort of young women who can no longer attend TAFE courses as they have been abolished in the State Government

cuts. The total cost to the taxpayer of State cuts having to be compensated by Commonwealth social security payments could then be measured.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the most vulnerable in our society need options which allow them to participate fully in the economy.

Submitted by

Clarice Ballenden of Caulfield North

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Ruth Wachtel, of Portarlinton make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retired teacher, in the postcode of 3223.

I am an ex TAFE teacher and have also worked in the state secondary system and community education sectors. I was employed on a casual sessional basis an English/Litracy teacher in the Access Dept at Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE for over 20 years. I have first hand knowledge of just how important adult education at TAFE is for adults wanting to improve their skills and hence work opportunities. I often felt that my work involved more than just teaching language; it also provided crucial roads in to the broader community for many isolated and vulnerable students with poor literacy. I am appalled at what this government has done to our valuable TAFE system.

TAFE contributes to a strong and smart Australia by addressing the training needs of young adults, those who, for whatever reason, need to have their 'job readiness' met

and those who wish to increase their knowledge and working skills in their particular field of endeavour.

TAFE also provides best practice in the training sector so all registered training organisations can look to it for guidance on how best to successfully deliver training packages.

Many hundreds of TAFE students I taught over several decades have had a chance to progress and equip themselves with the necessary skills and qualifications to earn a living and be stronger contributing citizens rather than welfare dependants at risk of law breaking and deep unhappiness in their lives.

Regional TAFE colleges open doorways for students without them having to leave family and established friends to travel to major cities for education.

Small, private RTO's appear to be providing minimum course requirements when in fact they may be delivering a training package in a fraction of the time taken for the same package/course in the TAFE sector.

Reducing TAFE funding has resulted in the following:

- * A decrease in what is made available for potential students to study.
- * Less student welfare work to assist with students personal difficulties
- * Fewer teacher aides in the classroom to assist with literacy and numeracy issues
- * Job losses for TAFE staff or reduced hours and even greater reliance on casual workers.
- * Less well developed links between the training sector and business and industry.

Private, small RTO's cannot allocate similar resources, networking and experience to this vital area of training.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the drift

to privatising training prompted by government cuts to TAFE has the inherent danger of putting profits before people in course delivery. I want our students in whatever course they choose to undertake to be FULLY TRAINED and assisted into the workplace, not run through a series of check-lists grabbed from the training package and delivered in in double quick time. Please restore TAFE funding before it's too late and the TAFE system is gutted beyond recognition by a government intent on allowing private RTO operators to profit from our public purse.

Submitted by

Ruth Wachtel of Portarlington

Submitted by

Ruth Wachtel of Portarlington

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Damien Taarnby, of Queenstown make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Rigger , in the postcode of 5014.

I did a pre voc welding course straight after leaving school and also have done construction tickets there. Without Tafe I would be without doubt a lot worse of than I am today

Tafe allows people of all ages and circumstances a opportunity to improve their skill set and progress through the workforce

Tafe offers you a chance to continually improve your skill set no matter your age or level of education. I was 26 yrs old when I studied construction

I believe that in one hand governments are encouraging 457 visas then cutting Tafe on

the other hand is disgusting and despicable. It is a truly a decision that is influenced by business and profits and defitnely not a decision in the best interests of our great country.

I have been out of the school system too long to comment

I am sorry the liberal controlled media hasn't informed me a lot of what's been happening

Availability of courses available has always been limited in my experience. Every Australian should have the oppportunity to study and improve there life

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€I have two children in primary school and I would like Tafe to still be a option when they reach adulthood

Submitted by

Damien Taarnby of Queenstown

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Jim Higgins, of Forest Lake make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

As a teacher in the TAFE (Qld) system for the pasty 30 years, I have seen many changes to the VET sector. The current cuts in government expenditure by States and the Commonwealth have resulted in less choice of courses for students, less availability (particularly with campus closures), and higher costs.

The main argument put to staff and students is that TAFE must become "cost effective" or "cost neutral" if it is to continue to operate in a "new' deregulated market.

I have serious concerns about this "deregulated" system, with stories (related to me by students) of shoddy or almost non-existent training carried out by providers in this "deregulated' market.

Two of my children (one son and a daughter) attended TAFE after school and received very good vocational education and well respected qualifications. My daughter has recently used her Diploma qualification to allow her to articulate and gain credit towards a university degree which she is now completing.

My greatest concern is that the futures of many of our young people will be put in jeopardy if we move from a world class TAFE system to a "fly by night" system where the quality of outcomes is often questionable.

Submitted by

Jim Higgins of Forest Lake

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Peter Thurgood, of Wahroonga make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

TAFE gave me the opportunity to become the first member of my family, one of eight, to receive an academic qualification. As I studied management it not only helped in my working career but allowed me to ensure that my children and wife achieved university qualifications and become major contributors to Australian work and life, in a variety of fields. Increase funding to TAFE to ensure the future of many of it's students especially in the arts which has been stripped away by the NSW government. Thank you.

Submitted by

Peter Thurgood of Wahroonga

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Tony Huxley, of Opposum Bay make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Support worker, in the postcode of 7023.

I studied at TAFE for my trade certificate some other short courses, it was a way I could study and work to support my family. The cost of TAFE study was affordable in years gone past, and the only way for many Tasmanian's for who university is not an option.

TAFE is for the many, the nature of what it offers is specific training to be job ready, or skills for people of any age to improve their prospects.

When I was young the culture that I grew up in didn't know the value of education through no fault of their own. TAFE has given me the opportunity to try for better paid more rewarding work.

I am particularly concerned about the lack of skill of a lot of today's apprentice, TAFE provided a regulated consistent base for apprentice training, Industry training only gives and shows what it wants for its own needs, and gets financial reward from the government, leaving many apprentices not full able to work in all areas of their trade limiting their opportunities and eroding skill bases.bases.

I have seen training organizations and businesses signing off apprentices early that don't have the skill they need so they can get the government money. TAFE is independent with a focus on proper training.

TAFE was always an education option for people with little money. It had low or no fee training that made it an option for anyone. With fee increases people cant afford to study, particularly when the cost of housing is such a big issue. A government that does not invest in education destroys the future of its population.

I personally cant afford to study what I would like at TAFE as the increased fees mean I cant afford to have any time off work to attend classes.

The base of any community is the education and health of its people, if they are well educated and healthy they will prosper if not everyone will suffer, its the governments choice, responsibility lays at their feet, I hope for all out sake they support education through TAFE.

Submitted by

Tony Huxley of Opposum Bay

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, , of Aspley make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a TAFE Teacher, in the postcode of 4034.

As a teacher I have evidence of how TAFE enables people of various communities to gain control of their futures via education & training & contribute as a productive person in the workforce & society.

Innovative, global training via dedicated TAFE teachers who value industry input & guidance to ensure relevance for the workforce today & adapt to future needs of the workforce.

Migrants who come to this country with either basic skills or advanced skills that are not currently recognised, TAFE provides an opportunity for all to be a part of a productive, innovative workforce.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...more social issues, crime & mental health issues due to isolation. Regional areas will become ghost towns if teenagers & young adults will leave regional areas to attend training. This has wider long term effects for example our ageing population, where young adults leave town & cannot care for their ageing parents. NBN may be part of the answer here.

International colleges who pass accreditation but close down & public providers pick up the students who are not competent. You can buy anything online including certificates & awards. TAFE has strict governance & accountability.

Staff cuts 100 jobs at my college in the last 6 months or so.

Courses only offered annually instead of 2 intakes a year.

Fees with VET Fee help will create economic issues for society. Courses were \$4000.00 going to be \$14,000.00

Classes been cut in tourism even though supposedly a pillar of the state economy.

Hospitality cuts also.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE is an experienced, worthwhile investment for our secure globally competitive economy.

Submitted by

of Aspley

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Marie Kay, of Coombabah make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

As a great-grandmother who had free university education, I don't envy the prospects of some of my grandchildren growing up in areas where TAFE is under threat. Like so many young people in this consumer society, two have gone into unskilled jobs and could be in danger of just drifting along until life events cut off their opportunities to do further training, or a diminished TAFE seems to have not much to offer.

TAFE should be revitalised and expanded to help this generation to cope with a rapidly changing world. We know that the nature of work has changed, that the kinds of work and the frequency of re-training required in the future can't really be imagined by us now.

TAFE should open up life's possibilities for young people and older people wanting to re-train. A clever country values a wide variety of skills cheaply accessed,

Submitted by

Marie Kay of Coombabah

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Patricia Zuber, of Dutton Park make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

My daughter was born with a medical condition that meant her taking a lot of time off school for illness and surgery which affected her studies and school results. The OP score she achieved was low for her to go to university to undertake the study of her choice. She was very disappointed but she didn't give up. She enrolled in a TAFE Diploma course, worked hard, achieved a Diploma which enabled her to enrol in the university course she wanted to do. TAFE also acted as a way of filling in her missed schooling and got her to a point where she could successfully complete a degree course. She did this and went on to complete a Masters in Occupational Therapy. She now helps children with disabilities and does this very well as she has empathy because of her own difficulties. TAFE was essential in her story, without it she may not have succeeded. It's a good system for education and training for people everywhere in Australia and should not be compromised in any way.

Submitted by

Patricia Zuber of Dutton Park

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, susan Krawczyk, of Cambewarra make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a guide, in the postcode of 2540.

I began my tertiary training as a secondary Visual Arts Teacher at Randwick Tafe, then as part of a four year graduate Diploma at Alexander mackie CAE. I had a long career as a teacher and saw many of my students attend Tafe and go on to get employment. Many in visual arts. My daughter attended Nowra campus and Wollongong tafe, She did short courses that helped her make her choice and she spent four years aching Advanced Diploma in Screen and Media and is now working in her field and doing further training to move into a more specialised job. Tafe is essential in the regions because school leavers and women re-entering the workforce, long term unemployed have a local entry to training and work. not everybody can afford to move to the city to attend university. Art courses do lead to employment!!

In our experience, my daughter studied screen and media at Tafe because the university equivalent didn't have the industry experienced teachers and were not as up to date in their technology. We need skilled workers more and more and they can do training at tafe to fit in with work hours and have hands on training with teachers experienced in their industry. This is especially essential in the regional areas, where choices for training are less available.

Not in a regional town, being able to go to TAFE means people can retrain after redundancy, unemployment, women returning to the workforce or aboriginal community. Art funding has been radically cut resulting in unemployment for art teachers, an end to students plans for further training. An example of the success of the art courses in Nowra: a woman transitioning back to work did an art course and consequently opened an art store, that is very successful and much needed in our area as the nearest one was in Wollongong. Not only did her tafe art course train her for this venture, but helped her network with future customers.

in reality no available art courses at Nowra Tafe

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the next generation of school leavers in our regional area will opt to stay in local low paid jobs and not do further training as it is too difficult to move to the city. there are many young single parents and they need access to tafe to improve their chances of increased opportunities and higher wages.

Submitted by

susan Krawczyk of Cambewarra

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, jeff long, of scarborough make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a dogman, in the postcode of 6000.

I am a vehicle body builder by trade which I feel set me up for life without tafe schools
kids have no future

without the right skills for the job you wish to do in life you will fail

tafe has given a mate a chance at a mature apprenticeship

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...live in city

don't know

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because training the youth is our future without it we lose

Submitted by

jeff long of scarborough

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Robert Brown, of Mt Colah make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 45 years old and work as a Construction Teacher, in the postcode of 2077.

Hi there ,im employed by TAFE NSW as a construction teacher since 1987. During this time i have taught and been associated with students/employers at all different levels of training.

Early schoolleaver programs, pre employment courses, trade level courses and post trade level courses.

I hold a strong professional relationship with a large amount of ex students and still use the network of tradesman/ builders with current crop of students .We heavily rely on these ex students for work experience programs which leads to full time apprenticeships. Also it allows us teachers current up todate professional development with our onsite assessment of students on work experience programs.The program im involved in has ex students employing current students .. not bad ah

The pre employment program,construction pathways course im involved with has given so many the oppuntunity as a spring board into the industry.

The students come to us in three different ways . Straight from school,mature age and career change..

With out this program a lot of these students would never had the chance to gain emploment.

There are two many to list .I have many examples if someone wants to contact me..

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes .. I have heard all sorts of horror stories .. Had a student complete a Cert 2 in Construction . It was a hands on course where the trainer had to renevate a existing building . The students where involved in a lot of demolition but deemed competent in all units of the package . The trainer gained money from the renovation and trainig as well.. Wew found the student was far behind trying to a Cert 3

Having students with special learning needs.The cut backs now mean we cant use support teachers in the class room and on site ,when completing community projects..

As above

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦!

Submitted by

Robert Brown of Mt Colah

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Therese Bowes, of Windsor make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Tafe teacher, in the postcode of 4030.

Teaching in tafe for 21years I have witnessed it transforming power on many lives. It had been an educational safe haven for individuals for many reasons, ranging from a place to gain self confidence and work skills, to a place in which to prepare for the next educational step which maybe a place at university or a work promotion.

It's link to industry and government research on work skill need has always ensured it's relevant and useful position in the training market.

Through rpl and training initiatives in the mining industry my dyslexic brother has graduated as a diesel mechanic earning a wage that supports a family of 5.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yea in fact they have been welcomed by our managers as co-providers while our own staff have been made redundant.

Yes the buildings look run down and money has not been available for professional development.

They are destroying our reputation and market share.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is part of the powerful institution that education and learning are in our nations economic and cultural future.

Submitted by

Therese Bowes of Windsor

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Paul , of Meadowbank make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a part time plumbing teacher, in the postcode of 2114.

TAFE is important because of the work they do preparing young people for the trades using actual plumbers to teach them not some academic

Australia has the best qualified tradesmen in the world and that is due to the current training regime between the TAFE system and the employer

As a TAFE teacher I also conduct outreach classes and one on one teaching for youth that is severely handicapped by their current family (or lack of) life

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes for them it is just take the government handout money and churn out the kids

asap they DO NOT CARE about them

Not enough teachers and classes

It is lowering the quality of our trades people and damaging the chances of the youth to get ahead The cost of doing your trades course is TOO HIGH Only those whose family can afford it are getting to go especially the advanced courses

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need well trained, capables trades people in this country The standard of plumbers is dropping because of the practical lack of experience of those teaching them

Submitted by

Paul of Meadowbank

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Paul Falzon, of Guildford make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a manager, in the postcode of 2000.

Previously I have worked as a community worker with many disadvantaged young people, who were early school leavers. These young people often encountered family problems, abuse and other problems which meant that they dropped out of school at 13, 14 and above.

I was made aware of the TAFE Outreach programs through my contact with these young people. These programs were not like traditional educational programs, but they were structured in a way to incrementally assist young people who were vulnerable and had not been engaged in formal education and build confidence slowly.

Not many people are aware of the TAFE outreach programs, which is a real shame as

they are often not funded and are gradually being phased out, as they are totally misunderstood.

To give some context the young people who I worked with would attend TAFE outreach at the local youth centre and were enrolled in a painting course. They were all interested in art, and throughout the 8 week course, two days per week, they managed to build friendships with the other course participants and learnt to set goals and identify their skills and abilities.

These might not seem important to those that have been engaged in full time education as the norm, but to these young people it did have a life changing experience. Approximately 3/4 of the young people entered TAFE at a Certificate level and then began to enter a vocational area or complete year 10 and then year 12.

I believe that the TAFE system is affordable (or at least was more affordable a few years ago) for the average person who needs a qualification or skill.

I know that working recently at the University of Western Sydney, that approximately 20% of students (currently about approx 40k enrolled), came from the TAFE system.

As a result of the budget cuts, Granville TAFE will most likely not operate any more TAFE Outreach classes. This will have a huge impact on newly arrived refugees and migrants as well as people in the local community such as young school leavers who are unable to find alternative options to study.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is an investment in democracy. A well educated workforce can participate in society and lead to healthier, wealthier community. For the evidence base for this please see the http://www.ted.com/talks/richard_wilkinson.html

Submitted by

Paul Falzon of Guildford

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Roy Douglas, of McLaren Vale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a carpenter, in the postcode of 5171.

Completed Tafe study as carpenter/joiner in 1970-1973 at Marleston & O'Halloran Hill Tafe. Also completed courses in photography and low energy housing. Tafe is very important as the main industry educator.

It is essential that we train our youth to become tradespeople so that there is no shortfall in skilled trades in the future, importing personell from overseas is purely about exploitation and becomes a race to the bottom.

I have known several mature age apprentices who have become competant trades people after completing Tafe courses, prior to which they were working in repetitive manual jobs with no job satisfaction or incentive

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...access to further education which would not be normally available

Yes, my spouse attended a "private college " which was all about padding out the course merely to drag out the course purely to make the most amount of money from the student, a vast amount of the study was irrelevant and pointless

Centralising the Tafe Colleges from outer metro areas to the old Mitsubishi site [in SA] is a PR program by the state Government, it will do nothing for tafe students, closing down and bulldozing the O'Halloran Hill Tafe [opened in '72] beggars belief.

Reducing trades training will lead to a skills shortage in the future, lesser skills will lead to lesser quality tradespeople and a reduction in pay and conditions and will lead to a push for increased 457 visa's which is a knee jerk reaction to a problem, not a solution.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€œour kids are our future, they need to be well educated in trades based training to maintain Australia's reputation as a "Can do" society which can roll up its sleeves and do the skilled trades work which is essential to any society, we all can't be fast talkers in a suit.

Submitted by

Roy Douglas of McLaren Vale

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Jacqueline Williams, of Albion Park make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a TAFE Teacher, in the postcode of 2500.

I currently teach Cert IV Accounting Students as a Casual/Part-time Teacher as well as working in the private sector as a Bookkeeper and Office Manager. TAFE has played an important role in my life both as a student (in enabling me as a single parent to gain an affordable professional qualification), and as a teacher.

Many people I know have received their qualifications through TAFE, it is part of the fabric of our culture and needs to be protected.

Not everyone has the ability or finances to go the university. Other educational options need to be available.

Many of my students come from disadvantaged circumstances and TAFE gives them something to work towards, a goal for the future that would otherwise be out of reach.

I can only speak for the course in which I have been both a student and a teacher. It has been invaluable.

I have to say that there is no substitute for face to face learning. I have tried both, within TAFE and at University and we are kidding ourselves as a society if we think we can do away with face to face teaching and not lower the standard of education for most students.

Online learning works for some students but for those who struggle it is frustrating and the proof is in the fact that we continue to have students in the course that I teach move over from OTEN to complete their course.

TAFE provides RELEVANT skills within the workplace. For example, I am providing my students with 30 years of industry experience when they attend my classes, and I continue to regularly consult with industry by way of attending Business Seminars as part of my other role (Bookkeeper/Office Manager) as well as being in regular contact with the Institute of Certified Bookkeepers as a full member.

All of this knowledge and expertise is passed on to my students. You do not get this in a university setting or online learning package.

I am also in a position to help some of those students to get jobs after they complete their studies.

TAFE needs to be supported with additional funding, not cut back!!

TAFE gave me a second chance after my divorce. I was able to go back to TAFE and gain an additional qualification as a trainer and assessor. That enabled me to get a second job teaching at TAFE, and enabled me to stop commuting from Wollongong to Sydney for work.

As a single parent this gave me security for my kids and more time with them.

TAFE has also helped other single mothers such as myself to have hope of a better future. Many of them see university as an unreachable goal, but TAFE not only helps build their confidence but offers a stepping stone (by way of one years university credit) to further study if they want it. It is also much more affordable for them.

TAFE is also helpful for those from disadvantaged/low socio economic backgrounds, as sometimes they lack the confidence or financial means to attempt university study, but see TAFE study as achievable.

University tends to be a place where there is little contact between the faculty and the student. They attend lectures, they attend tutorials, but largely there is little support outside of that for struggling students. TAFE is more hands on, there is more student/teacher interaction and it is a more relaxed learning environment, which suits some students more than what is on offer at university. Especially if they have a learning difficulty.

There are so many reasons to be supporting TAFE. Too many to list here.

No in my area there are other options.

Absolutely. This is only going to get worse once the changes to funding structure kick

in.

I am already receiving brochures in the mail myself for substandard courses.

They try to push students through the course at lightening speed, with little one to one assistance and that can only result in a lower quality of education, if you can call it an education at all. Its more like ticking all the boxes to receive a worthless piece of paper at the end, and inevitably will lower the respect from employers for those types of qualifications when they start hiring staff with so called certificates that have no idea how to do the job!

Lower student numbers (also due to poor management, lack of funds for advertising, botch up in student enrolments etc etc)....

Lower allocated teaching hours for units of study (resulting in poorer quality education and low moral among teachers who are fighting to do a good job in very difficult circumstances).

The impact is huge. Teachers are throwing their hands up in the air in disgust. It is a hard enough job as it is, with long hours. Teachers and TAFE should be supported by the government.

Students are also very frustrated by having to be forced to do more study at home because budget cuts are shortening face to face teaching hours. They came to TAFE because they WANTED the face to face teaching.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE is a hugely important institution in society. It provides hope to many people from all walks of life. From students who don't quite think they can cut it in university, to single mums

who are looking for something to help them improve their life, to people with learning disabilities that need the face to face teaching to help them through....the list goes on.

Please provide support to TAFE and keep it alive for future generations.

Submitted by

Jacqueline Williams of Albion Park

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Margaret Opie, of COBARGO make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a , in the postcode of NSW.

I am a former TAFE teacher, now retired. I have seen students who did not succeed as mainstream school students develop and enrich their lives by undertaking further studies at TAFE. Many of these took courses which may not have been considered directly vocational but which indirectly developed their cognitive skills and self-esteem and in many cases, led them to employment.

TAFE has always been the foremost provider of skills needed for trades and many other fields of work and should be the first choice for government funds and support, rather than the many private providers who have started up in the past two decades and are more profit-driven than student oriented.

I know of several cases personally where people undertook TAFE studies and apprenticeships as mature age students and went on to have successful businesses and careers as a result.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means that there are opportunities for less affluent students to develop skills and knowledge. Bega TAFE has had to cancel many courses because they are no longer funded. ...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because as a taxpayer I believe the government must ensure that continuing education is available to everybody, including those who have no academic aspirations, and TAFE has always been the acknowledged superior provider in this field. â€

Submitted by

Margaret Opie of COBARGO

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Michele Konheiser, of Seville make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a massage therapist, in the postcode of 3139.

I recently completed my Certificate IV at TAFE. It was important to me as it provided a cost effective and flexible way for me to seek further education

It provides flexible options for skill accumulation and it provides a close facility to study

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

yes, massage therapy colleges are popping up and qualifications with less hours of study. The quality of standards appears to be dropping because of this

the local TAFE has closed. That's very disappointing

Opportunities to develop further skills has been impeded by the budget cuts. This will likely result in skills shortages in the future

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE gave me the flexibility to study part time in a course to support my family. This is important because my current employer does not offer full time employment and my family's income has reduced in recent 12 months due to economic decline

Submitted by

Michele Konheiser of Seville

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Charles Moss, of Greenslopes make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retiree, in the postcode of 4120.

During my working life I was a Careers Coordinator at a High School for 30+ yrs. My personal associations with TAFE have been many organised visits to various TAFE Colleges for Careers Coordinators. My own experiences with TAFE have been learning to do arc welding, training to be a volunteer tutor for migrants and refugees and an evening course teaching German.

Surely it is abundantly obvious that TAFE is an absolutely essential pathway for many of those who leave school at Year 10 or Year 12 leading to a vast range of occupations and careers. During my final years as a Careers Coordinator I was aware that many people were either choosing to go to TAFE instead of university or going to TAFE post university. They needed to acquire advanced technical skills in for instance mining and

electrical engineering which universities were unable to provide. Many of my own Year 11 and 12 students were doing school-based traineeships in areas such as carpentry, floristry, hospitality and mechanics. Most of them found work in their particular area of expertise. TAFE was always been under threat during my time as Careers Coordinator. There were many amalgamations in Brisbane in order, I imagine, to save money. It is so important that TAFE continues to do its essential work in this country, and be funded to keep up with advancing technology. We hear that the only way manufacturing is to survive is to keep ahead of the game. TAFE institutions can provide the wherewithal to keep this country viable in technology and manufacturing, and not rely heavily on the production raw materials for other advanced countries.

I have recently completed a tutoring course for teaching English to refugees and migrants at Southbank Institute of TAFE, Brisbane and now volunteer at SBIT and tutor a refugee in his home. Not exactly a second chance, but an example of the excellent work done by TAFE.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Only what I have read in the press. There have been many. I am unable to remember specific colleges.

No. Don't have enough inside knowledge to comment on this.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is the country's lifeline to a prosperous future. Not only is TAFE the most important provider of trade training, it provides many skills for the general public which make for a rich life experience at a reasonable cost. TAFE should provide well-equipped facilities and teachers for training in advanced technologies. Funding needs to be constantly

increased to keep track of developing technologies.

Submitted by

Charles Moss of Greenslopes

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Doug Spowart, of Toowoomba make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 59 years of age and have for my entire professional career, within a particular vocational area, have always been involved in teaching, not only in the VET sector, but also in university and in my own 'adult education programs'.

Training through numerous certificate and diploma programs @ TAFE and study/research in university to PhD level has enriched my life and professional practice.

I would state to the members of the inquiry committee that my life and contribution in various professional practice areas nationally and in some instances internationally, could not have been possible without the access to appropriate, affordable and quality TAFE training. I believe I am not alone in this.

For a significant part of my professional career I have lived in regional Australia in city in which a TAFE college exists. As part of my professional activities I have been employed within this institution as a vocational teacher. I have seen the difference that TAFE training makes to individual people and the families that they are part of, or that need their support to get a good, well paid job.

As a teacher I have also had the opportunity to work with students in not only their development within their specific area of study, but also in the enhance their personal confidence, work and life skills.

I believe that TAFE serves the community and is respected by the community because of the reliability and integrity that it has earned over the years.

I would suggest to the committee that the need to consider the following:

- Training and skill development is a right for ALL Australians
- Training and qualifications should be accessible and affordable
- The qualifications available should be across a diverse range of qualifications, and not simply those that are cheap to deliver, easy to assess, and have high numbers of participants
- Regional Australians need to be able to access training locally and not be required to relocate in capital cities; and
- That the important role that the TAFE teacher provides should be recognised and that they be remunerated appropriately.

TAFE is an important bridge in society over which people through the gaining of qualifications, skills and personal achievement pass. Ultimately this bridge connects to all Australia – allow the bridge to become dilapidated and structurally unsound and Australia will be significantly impacted.

I ask you to carefully consider the role of TAFE and the necessity to renew and refurbish this important institution.

Dr Doug Spowart M.Photos, FAIPP, HonFAIPP

Submitted by

Doug Spowart of Toowoomba

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Kathryn Ellis, of Alexandra Hills make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 4127.

I did a Cert IV in Training and Assessment at TAFE two years ago. I hope to use it formally but at present use it at work occasionally. My son attended TAFE to complete an apprenticeship as a carpenter. He has done further study through TAFE. My daughter also did a computer course at TAFE when she left school midway through Year 12. (She since completed Year 12 and university to become a photographer).

It gives young people, particularly, an opportunity to gain skills outside schools and universities.

TAFE was the answer for my son to complete his carpentry apprenticeship-university was too daunting for him. Going to TAFE for my daughter, when she left school mid

year twelve, was a confidence booster for her.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...opportunities, particularly for young people. I lived in Mount Isa for eleven years (and worked at the Tafe there for a while). It is the only campus available after year twelve. Travel and living away from home expenses are prohibitive for many people in regional areas.

No I can not comment. I do not have experience in this area.

There was a big concern we would lose our local TAFE -at Alex Hills.

Not up to date with availability of course in our local area.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because people living in the Redlands area depend on our local TAFE to be there to provide the education needed within our local area.

Submitted by

Kathryn Ellis of Alexandra Hills

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Darren Larsen, of Bundamba make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Avionics Technician, in the postcode of 4304.

TAFE has significantly contributed to my life career and is a huge benefit to all people that attend it. It has allowed me to train and achieve job positions over the whole of my life time.

I am current a Avionics Technician with Raytheon Australia (Defence Contractor). Before that I was employed with Qantas Defences Services (part of Qantas) which was sold to Raytheon Australia.

Before that I was employed for 1 season (Approx 6 mnths) by Amdel Limited (Sugar Dept) as a Laboratory Technician.

Before that I was employed for 1 season (Approx 6 mnths) by Rocky Point Mill (near Jacobs well) as a Cane Analyst/Auditor BSES.

Before that I was employed in the RAAF (about 10yrs)

Before that I was employed by KFC (Management & Worker positions).

Before that I was Studying at CIAE University in Rockhampton.

Before that I was in High School. This outlines my employment history. Bundaberg TAFE allowed me to get quit my job at KFC, with support from my parents, so I could do study at TAFE. I completed my CN760 Certificate in Cane Testing in 1991 while I applied for the Air Force. If I had not succeed in getting a position in the Air Force at the time, I would have immediately been able to get work in the Mills at Bundaberg. I had a job opportunity lined up for the season when I received a position in the Air Force at about the same time. Since Mill work is only seasonal and the Air Force is full time I choose the Air Force. When I discharged from the Air Force after 10yrs. I decided to do a different path in my life for work. I did training at Bundaberg TAFE again. This time the course was a Laboratory Skills Cert III course (Similar to the old CN760 Certificate). After passing the course I gained employment at Rocky Point Mill then after that I gained employment at Amdel limited. As this was only Seasonal employment I started a study at Bundaberg TAFE (related to Electronics). I did not seek to continue the study course because I was able to gain employment @ Qantas Defence Services as a Avionics Technician. If I had not gained employment I would have continued to study to gain a Diploma related to Electronics. After that my employment was transferred across to Raytheon Australia as a Avionics Technician. I have done other TAFE courses at different TAFE's and have always gained something valuable out of the TAFE course. I see TAFE as essential, and needs to be accessible to everyday people so that they can gain employment and be successful in life.

TAFE courses have directly or Indirectly given me a second chance to regain and maintain my employability in the work force. TAFE is essential to gaining employment or at the very least gaining enough qualifications to be consider capable of holding a position in a employable position. TAFE courses can be essential to getting into a

University for further education. TAFE courses can give you a lower overall cost to gain employment especially when you cannot afford the cost of going to University.

No, should not be happening

Do we really want to end up like the US? The separation between rich and poor is expanding and the middle class is disappearing. Higher costs in educating our Australians after they leaving School will contribute significantly to our "Australia" becoming more like the US. This is provided that the Australia wide TAFE's maintain a high standard of training and keep up to date with the industries out there in Australia.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦

Refer to all of the above

Submitted by

Darren Larsen of Bundamba

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Raewyn Macky, of YARRANBELLA make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a unemployed, in the postcode of 2447.

I moved here 5 yrs ago hoping to quit casual teaching which I finally did late 2012. In this time I have see the Nambucca & Kempsey Community Colleges close. There is a small TAFE at Macksville but no other external learning centre for anyone who can't/doesn't wish to drive to Coffs Harbour (where courses are limited & some closing). Not enough subject variety in our local TAFE. Lots of rural people don't get great internet so online learning is hit & miss and doesn't suit everyone anyway. TAFE provides jobs but without the learning facility you also limit the ability for people to train for other jobs.

Courses run by TAFE are supposed to be up-to-date so learning is relevant particularly in IT. It's suits a great many students who didn't complete school, wish to be educated

but can't or don't want to go to uni or people who have been out of the workforce. Great place to retrain or update within same curriculum. If we have no learning of new skills now, I doubt there'll be a capable workforce in the future.

I know TAFE teachers who have students whereby TAFE is their only option for learning a trade or skill. As I said, plenty of people for whom school is not the ideal learning institution and where do people who are returning to the workforce, after years out of it, go to upskill or retrain?nor

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means... SOMEWHERE that actually runs classes without having to make a long drive (on an unsafe highway!). Altho TAFE teaches certificated courses it is a major shame that in a small rural area such as mine, it isn't also able to run "interest" courses such as 'spanish for learners' or 'learn to play the harmonica'.

\$ yrs ago I attended Novasill in Nambucca Heads to do Cert IV Training and Assessment. It is the worst training I have ever taken part in and I never received a response to my 2 page assessment of the course which I sent to local and head office. It was a joke and most of the people who passed should never have been allowed to. It's was money making scheme back then and considering that qualification is now obsolete and I must retrain (where little has changed within the actual course), I feel it is even more of a scam than previously. The entire industry needs a shake up!!!!

I am not specifically aware of what happens at my local TAFE (except that it doesn't have courses that I would like to do) but know from friends who teach at Coffs Harbour TAFE that budget cuts are having quite an impact. I think if the average person in the street knew the truth about what is happening in some departments then they possibly would not support TAFE at all. TAFE itself needs to have a shake up internally as well.

Specifically I have little knowledge but like I said, there isn't enough variety in courses. Also, I am not sure if some students are forced to be there (i.e centrelink has requirements of them) but I for one, would not wish to be in a class of students who couldn't care less about being there....touch on the teachers and on the students who do wish to learn.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because small rural communities are losing community colleges and have few options for learning. TAFE would attract quality teachers and students who are genuine. Perhaps TAFE wouldn't then have to pass, for eg. foreign students who pay well to attend but behave poorly in class, don't have adequate grasp of English, make little effort and 'expect' to pass no matter what.

Submitted by

Raewyn Macky of YARRANBELLA

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Kate Ford, of Byron Bay make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a an artist, in the postcode of 2481.

TAFE has played an ongoing role in my life. I have taken short courses in areas that I needed to develop skills in to further my business after I completed University. I have confidence in the courses they deliver and it is important to me that I receive quality instruction and materials and am not just a part of a commercial operation that exists and uses the training sector mainly to raise revenue.

I have worked for TAFE as a visual arts teacher and have seen how the organisation can help people change their lives to create a future for themselves.

Skills recognition, short courses for skills gap areas, long courses to ensure skills are developed and retained.

TAFE provides fair and equitable training for people from all walks of life. It doesn't discriminate on age, gender, race, ability or social background.. everyone can fit in.

My partner has used TAFE to have his skills and overseas training recognised so that he could continue in his business and gain licensing needed to allow his business to grow. His apprentices attend TAFE to ensure that they don't have gaps in their skills and from their perspective it ensures that they complete their training with a wide skills base and are employable within the industry not just in the specialty areas that they are currently working in.

Both apprentices are early school leavers and the TAFE training and apprenticeship are a second chance opportunity.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...a chance a better future. A chance to change how you see yourself, a chance to broaden your experiences and ways of thinking. A chance to meet new people, a chance to work alongside members of your community with whom you didn't think you could.

Yes and with the introduction of even greater RPL services and workplace assessment people are missing out on vital areas of their training. I have seen cases where people have been awarded recognition for courses that there is no way they can have the broad underpinning knowledge necessary

classes not being offered even with interest in the subject area. difficult or impossible to access disability and student support services. Cut back in teaching hours for courses delivered. Higher stress level in staff, concern over job security

the funding cuts are killing what was (and still just is) a well respected and first rate

training service.

TAFE needs to be funded to continue to offer courses for higher cost trade training areas if we do not want to see our standards and knowledge gap deepening. TAFE also need to continue to be funded to offer courses for disadvantaged and disenfranchised people.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦ TAFE provides people with a genuine chance to make a difference for themselves and our community as a whole.

Submitted by

Kate Ford of Byron Bay

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Lia Shelley, of Eleebana make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a sales assistant, in the postcode of 2283.

I seem to have been training all my life and yet I am working as a sales assistant. My highest qualification is a Masters Degree in Health Services Management. When I left school I attended Tafe for a year enrolled in a Secretarial course. I obtained a job in an office as an accounts secretary. When I was old enough, I enrolled in nursing and for many years I achieved certificates, degrees and much more. During that time, I also did courses at Tafe, cooking, sewing, dressmaking. Tafe has played an important part in my life and even my son's life. My son was able to study Tafe courses whilst in senior high. This helped him achieve his dream job in the Airforce in Information Technology.

It is obvious that a learning institution like Tafe contributes to developing the skills

required for the workforce. I am a strong believer that education is important no matter what area one works in.

After I finished my nursing career, I attended Tafe again and I enrolled as a Nail Technician. I intend to start my own business and a Tafe course has given me some hope for the future. The courses need to be developed to improve things for Nail Technicians.

The state government's cuts on funding to the Tafe system as impacted the variety of courses available. I believe that cuts could be made in the system in way of wage cuts. For many years it has been known that Tafe teachers are extremely well paid. I have family and friends who are or have been Tafe teachers and I know how much they get paid. Far too much!!! When I worked as a University Lecturer, Tafe teachers were paid more than me. Reduce their pay and increase the staff levels.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded, with being mindful of over paid teachers. I support the wonderful Tafe system, but urge that students do not suffer with poor standards of education.

Submitted by

Lia Shelley of Eleebana

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, marion armitage, of my evelyn make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a unemployed, in the postcode of 3796.

tafe allowed me to learnt he basic skills that are needed today, ie typing, accounting and to extend my education

tafe used to allow mature aged people a chance to re enter the work force by allowing retraining at a reasonable price with a discount for being on a health card. now this is not the way. also it allowed training in different fields as you do not always choose the right course the firat time.

tafe allowed me to re enter the work force as i obtained a advanced diploma in accounting, thus allowing me to get a part time job.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...that i did not have to travel great distances to be re educated. but the closure of the lilydale campus would now change all that!!!!

Most definately YES!!! These are really lowereing the standard of education and the perseption of those who employ their students. Tafes are recognised, while these others are really questionable.

THEY CLOSED LILYDALE.....or was that just an excuse that Swinburne had been trying to do for YEARS!

CLOSURE OF LILYDALE CAMPUS!

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€!everyone (even those over 45 years) deserves a chance to be educated and able to re enter the work force in an area that they enjoy and are able to stay employed.

Submitted by

marion armitage of my evelyn

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Maree Gruppetta, of Tregear make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2770.

I went to TAFE to complete a Tertiary Prep course so I could enrol in University and become a teacher, my son completed TAFE courses as part of his apprenticeship.

TAFE provides far more support than university and permits those returning to study or the workforce to find their way. Students moving from a scvhool situation find TAFE more helpful to ensure they develop the required skills

I left school at 15 years old and returned to study when 33 years old, and living in Housing Commission house, in order to return to the workforce and make a better life for my children. I am now a qualified teacer and lecturer and own my own house and car. Without TAFE support I would not have made it to University.

Living in Mt Druitt, there is only the option of attending the local high school with your children or TAFE. I worry about how many will suffer if services to TAFE are cut.

Many private colleges offer 'fast' courses but do not specify the qualifications which worries me.

Staffing and courses have been cut due to budget cuts.

Courses have been consolidated and are more difficult to complete due to less staff and support.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the community needs access to good education.

Submitted by

Maree Gruppetta of Tregear

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Lorraine Simiana, of Ermington make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a student, in the postcode of 2115.

I am quite intelligent and was unfortunate as a child to have a father who believed women belonged in the home, looking after their children. I won a bursary at age 12 years and my father told me I didn't get it. I always knew that I wanted a career, instead I married young and had children young. I have worked hard over the years and had hoped to further my skills for a change in career. TAFE has provided me with those skills. I am still studying at TAFE now.

I entered University in 1995 and again in 2000, as a mature aged student and found it very difficult. The answers to any question from teachers, was go and research it. The only time I was assisted by a teacher was when the teacher was a full time teacher at TAFE and worked part time at the university. That is the difference between TAFE and

Universities. TAFE teaches and gives you the skills to achieve your goals. University charges a fortune only to tell you to research it.

I am currently achieving my goals but at a cost. I am studying Fine Arts and funding was cut earlier this year. I have 3.5 subjects to finish my Diploma at a cost of over \$6000. I am a kinship carer for my 2 grandchildren and I am currently receiving centrelink benefits. I am hoping this debt does not affect our quality of life when I start earning a living.

I have seen cuts to teaching hours which means the quality of the worked has been reduced and highly experienced teachers have resigned and gone on to work in other institutions. And after all this I am paying ridiculous fees. It's unfair and morally wrong.

I have watched over the last 2 years cuts to teaching hours, changes in course structure and job losses. As a pensioner I used to pay \$70 which included student association, now I am being charged over \$6000.

It seems obvious that the state government wishes to privatise TAFE, the beauty of TAFE has always been that it offered highest quality teaching and was affordable.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because our kids and their parents should not be penalised because they cannot afford an education. All these funding cuts and commercialisation of TAFE courses will impact on lower income families, especially in the western suburbs.

Submitted by

Lorraine Simiana of Ermington

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, John Schindler, of Denmark make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a volunteer, in the postcode of 6333.

I am retired and am a pensioner who does some volunteer work in the community.

In our regional area TAFE is the only place for people both young and old to learn new skills and to update their skills to keep up with the demands of modern technology.

Over the past 7 years I have kept my computer skills up to date by attending TAFE courses, this has allowed me to do voluntary work for community groups.

I am studying a course in horticulture which gives me a new skill, allows me to grow some of my own food and also allows me to meet and work with some interesting people.

Our local TAFE has already had to cut some courses due to funding reductions.

No

The range of music courses has been reduced.

Reduction in the range of TAFE courses available

I think that TAFE is very important in our area. A well funded TAFE will encourage more people both young and old to develop new skills and to keep their skills up to date.

Submitted by

John Schindler of Denmark

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Michele Scarcella, of CONSTITUTION HILL make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a food Service Manager, in the postcode of 2145.

I have a Trade Certificate and Cert IV in Training & Assessment. I completed this through TAFE as well as a number of other short courses in my 25 years of working life. I also have Post Grad' Qual's at University level. This has shaped my working life to be happy and successful. I know for a fact without TAFE and government funding I would never have had the opportunities that I have had. I think it's imperative that in 2013 and beyond that any Australian should continue to have these opportunities irrespective of their socio-economic backgrounds, it only benefits the country.

As above

I left school with only a School Certificate (Year 10). I didn't like school and was hardly

there. As a young person you don't always 'know best' and make a lot of silly decisions which shape your life. As I got older I realised without education you will get nowhere. Hence since gaining employment after leaving school I have been lucky enough to have a second chance in my education levels. Without this second chance I would be living a life of a Centrelink recipient in the terrible cycle, which is very hard to break, of many unfortunate Australians of today.

No

I have a perfect example of where I applied for a teaching job for Commercial Cookery in a private RTO where it was explained to me that, "You will be teaching Indian students mainly, here we pass everybody so they can become Australian citizens". I walked out of the interview in disgust and was hounded by this corrupt RTO for six weeks offering me the position I could never morally accept. This would never happen at TAFE. Becoming a TAFE teacher in my field is very hard to get into, however I will never stoop to such a low level to get a foot up for my chosen profession.

I have noticed not as many courses offered and many courses disappearing over the years.

As a Manager in a NSW I employ many hospitality staff. I have noticed over the past few years that the applicants has dramatically reduced as has the skill levels in younger people that we have employed. As a rule I always favour a qualification from TAFE over any 'backyard' qualification which comes along for those that have limited work experience in the position being advertised.

As I have stated above. The skill levels are reducing to a dangerous level and I am being forced to recruit prospective employees with limited qualifications. The trade of

Chef (Commercial Cookery) is always listed in the Clarius Skills Index as the highest sought after trade or skills shortage. I really can't see any improvement without increased funding or stop the cutting of funds in this area.

Submitted by

Michele Scarcella of CONSTITUTION HILL

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, jane potter, of gympie make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a dosability support worker, in the postcode of 4570.

All of our family went to tafe, all of my 5 children (one is still currently attending Gympie Qld tafe- hairdressing) My husband learnt his trade from Tafe. I learnt many different trades from TAFE and all of my adult sons went to TAFE.

You know when you go to TAFE that you learn something. To many courses are being run by Private educators who dont care about you as a person just the fees you pay... going to your local TAFE means you will be trained by someone who cares..You train with other people in your community that you interact with threw your job on a daily basis. You learn to network and build relationships for your future..

Nothing for trades is available threw school school teacherws cant train you to cut hair, be a plumber or a farrier . I went to tafe in my 40s to retrain after finishing

motherhood to be come a teacher aide

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...everything, where else could people from gympie go. We are finding it tough enough supporting all our children to go thre w tafe with fees as it is. apprentices get paid peanuts. No way could they afford to travel...some had to travel for over an hr or more to do blolcks of tafe timel. this meant us paying for accomodation as well...as gympie tafe doenst olffer many things.

Yes I have , just recently I started a cert for work and it was thre w a private company, teacher was not very good at all. Not one of my colleages finished the course.. private colleges sign you up for the big dollars and dlont give a shit after that. why would they ? they have there money paid up front.

Yes just have to walk into gympie tafe it looks like a run down old building, the gardens are overgrown ,obviously money is being spent elsewhere to keep it open.

yes fees are really high for 1st yr apprentices many who have to live in town to work and attend tafe... if parents didnt pay fees for apprentices then they wouldnt be able to attend... Eating is important and as an apprentice on under 10dollars an hr and have a car to get to work isnt easy...you need good food to learn a trade and take it all in.. not easy on crap wages... thank goodness for parents..

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€rural people need them . How on earth would apprentices afford to be trained by private companys... the cost would be more than there megar wage... its ajoke.. It should be free... pff I urge the committe to live on apprentiship wages work 40 hrs a week run a

car and eat plus pay fees for study... cant be done with out parents help.

Submitted by

jane potter of gympie

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Esther Lee, of Forestville make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2087.

I went to TAFE many years ago. Tafe gave me a second chance as I had not done well at school. At Tafe I was able to complete years 11 and 12 as a mature age student. On completion I trained as a teacher. I was able to study because it wasn't expensive at the time to study full time at Tafe.

Going to Tafe allows people to have opportunities to train for a skilful job. Teachers need to be fully qualified to equip people with the appropriate skills in the trade. To have a smart and strong Australian workforce Tafe needs to continue to offer courses for people to have the practical and theoretical knowledge needed in order to compete with other advanced countries.

My early departure from school gave me a hopeless future to consider in my youth. Thankfully, Tafe existed at the time, so I was able to advance my skills and goals in order to maximise my delayed ambitions at the time.

I have noticed that teachers do not need to be as highly qualified to teach in Tafe. An inferior qualification is really unacceptable and needs to be regulated, as some overseas students are paying high fees expecting to be taught by a qualified, skilful teacher. Yes, I have heard of private colleges with lower standards than Tafe.

My friend is constantly worried about his job at Tafe. His hours of instruction has been reduced to half, but his workload remains the same or even more, as they are placing more students in classes than before.

It is ruining a wonderful system; shame on the current govt!

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because many young people will miss out on a golden opportunity because it will become too expensive, too inferior with an unhappy, overworked staff.

Submitted by

Esther Lee of Forestville

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Hugh McCaffery, of Lennox Head make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a company owner, in the postcode of 2478.

The training I have received at TAFE has been the foundation of my learning and professional life. After leaving high school in 1978, I completed a Diploma from Film & Television School at Gore Hill TAFE in 1980. This qualification gave me the background to secure employment and advance within the Sydney Television industry from 1980-1990. Between 1991-4 I undertook a Bachelor of Applied Science - Natural Resource Management. In 1998-99 I worked as a teacher - Horticulture, Western Institute TAFE, Broken Hill Campus.

TAFE is an integral component of Australia's education matrix, providing training, theoretical & practical skills for the huge sector of Australia's workforce that is not catered for by Universities.

TAFE is also an excellent avenue for young & older Australians who did not fit into the standard secondary school or who left school for any number of reasons, or who had poor HSC results (I fit into this category) to further their education and qualify for tertiary education. This was the case for myself, I got a poor HSC result, did a TAFE course and excelled, worked and excelled in the industry for 10 years then went on to do a degree, excelled as a consultant in that field and now have consolidated all of my knowledge and experience to run my own successful online business. TAFE also helps mature age people to go on and excel, a good friend in his 40's did a TAFE course in social work which then allowed him to be accepted into a law degree, in which he excelled and he now owns and runs his own very successful Law firm that specialises in IP.

I live in Northern NSW and TAFE has helped many of my friends children find new directions, refocus their lives and flourish. The cutting of funding for TAFE creates one more dead end for rural children and also gets rid of important employer in regional areas.

No, in our area once TAFE goes then there is nothing else, just a HUGE gap for our kids and young adults.

Loss of courses, job cuts, increased fees making existing courses unavailable to many and the eventual loss of campuses which is a huge blow to local economies already struggling after the GFC.

Loss of needed courses (such as nursing and various trades), stress on enrolled kids and their families because of increased fees, with associated flow on of reduced employment opportunities and a less skilled workforce pool in the area.

As an employer in the Northern NSW area I have seen a huge impact on local kids, younger adults and adults in general with the closure of TAFE campuses and shrinking of courses/services offered on remaining campuses. It means that kids and older people have to leave the area to train. For the ones that stay it means that they have less skills and therefore associated inability to attract and secure employment that creates lowered self esteem and creates associated anti social habits and behaviours, basically a bad recipe for all of us. As previously stated it also creates pool of potential employees in the area that generally have poor key skills to fill existing employment vacancies in the area. This is especially the case for my business, I have the work but cannot find people with the appropriate skills.

Submitted by

Hugh McCaffery of Lennox Head

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, David Galbraith, of Brisbane make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 4053.

it provides education and training that is relatively affordable for all manner of occupations

I'm enrolled in a cert 3 in aged care as a means to re-skilling. it is the best course available to me and is the preferred training provider by the industry.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it provides

high quality education and training that is is affordable and well regarded. The State government should be committed to supporting such a fine system.

Submitted by

David Galbraith of Brisbane

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Peter Curtis, of Waramanga make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2902.

I started working at the age of 17 and joined the RAN where I trained as a photographer. After 6 years I left and completed an apprenticeship through TAFE. I traveled and then returned to graphic arts and printing. Later I retrained as a commercial cook through a TAFE college. I then went on to university as a mature age student. My daughter has continued to educate herself through the TAFE system first through VET and in post secondary school she has achieved Cert 3 and 4 and is now studying for a diploma of community services on line, through a TAFE college. TAFE as you can see has been an important vehicle for continued learning for myself and my daughter.

The slogan Life Long Learning means little in reality unless it supported by a

comprehensive education system. One anecdote worth sharing is one told to me a successful electrician. "At school I was convinced I was a failure at anything mathematical. It was not until I found the job I wanted to do, and then receiving the skills and training at TAFE to do it, that I began to understand what I never understood at school. My TAFE teacher revealed the world of mathematics to me in a way that I had never been able to understand before. It was by the combination of theory and practical application that was revelatory.' We learn by doing.

My daughter whose years of compulsory schooling had not been entirely successful, and she finished at Year 11. TAFE has provided a practical and necessary avenue for her to keep developing and learning professionally. She is working as a school assistant in a special school. She has been doing this for 4 years since she was 18. It was TAFE that initially assisted her to get into the work force. It has been TAFE where she achieved her certificates, and it is TAFE that has given her the opportunity to study for a diploma. The online option has been invaluable for someone who is working full time. I suspect she will one day go on to university study. She is currently applying for jobs in the health system as a medical receptionist, and TAFE once again is providing a course to assist her gain the relevant skill base for that kind of job.

In my case, I left school at the end of Year 11, and apart from the Navy, it has been TAFE that has allowed me to transition into different areas of employment, before finally gaining the self-confidence to study at university and take up teaching.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

From my teaching colleagues I am aware that there are many teachers in TAFE that have never had permanency. One case is of a woman who has been teaching

introductory IT skills for 18 years in the same institution but as a casual. Why? Isn't education meant to put an end to lives this way? That is what we are told, yet the very institutions that say they are providing the means out economic difficulty caused by lack of work and permanency practice the opposite as employers.

I friend of mine was a casual teacher in a regional TAFE (Geelong in Victoria) where he taught Graphic design a commercially successful course and well subscribed. He no longer has a job, and many students do not have a course to attend as it was cut. The lose of TAFE in these areas particularly can only mean further disadvantage and difficulty of access to educational services.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well funded because unless you do the political rhetoric of life long learning; smart nation; earning and learning; clever country; jobs of the future; education as salvation; and so on and on and on' will remain just that. It is time advocates of public education in the service of the public got real, and for real, get started in putting the neo-liberal ideologues, on all sides of the parliamentary and corporate spectrum, and their user pays back into the dust bin from where it came. However to achieve that we will need to address the fundamental causes of social and economic inequality and bring them to life in the minds and activities of the people most affected by the concentration of wealth into the hands of the few. It won't be easy, witness the opposition of the wealthy to the timid reforms of Gonski.

Submitted by

Peter Curtis of Waramanga

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, roberta fleming, of wandin nth make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a contract school cleanerr, in the postcode of 3139.

my daughter went to the lilydale tafe, and with out that being there i dont think she would have had the chance to go on to uni. She has got the job that she wanted.

with tafe it helps so many people that want to learn a trade, and without tafe what hope do they have. we want people to learn a skill and thats what tafe is there for.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

closure of the lilydale tafe, where does everyone go, as a lot of people have to travel

from warburton and futher out, so what hope do they have at getting a trade

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦its our future and our kids

Submitted by

roberta fleming of wandin nth

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Lisa Enever, of HORSLEY make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a library assistant, in the postcode of 2530.

I am currently studying for a Diploma in Library Services at TAFE. I'm learning lots of useful things and it will help me move up the ladder at work.

Tafe gives the workforce a strong base of people with relevant and up to date skills.

My daughter is currently studying for her Diploma in Children's Services, which will give her a great career path, where she goes straight to work, or uses the Diploma to get into uni as she was very ill during her HSC and was unable to finish it. We are very appreciative of her having this second chance.

I have noticed budget cuts at my local TAFE in terms of increased student fees, cut teacher hours and less available resources.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE is crucial to skilling our workforce, and an integral part of the career paths of many people.

Submitted by

Lisa Enever of HORSLEY

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Graham Short, of Cremorne make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a architect and PT TAFE Teacher, in the postcode of 2090.

I have been a PT, FT and Head Teacher of Architectural studies at TAFE since 1979 and having retired currently returned as a PT teacher

I have seen the lives of many students school leavers, mature aged,disadvantaged, NESB and international transformed by the skills and qualifications they obtained at TAFE.

mature aged woman fulfilled life long ambition and switched from science job to architectural studies and qualified with State's top award.

Now has own practice and teaching PT

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

As a PT teacher I was instructed to take a week's early leave at TAFE SI-U to assist balance budget

The number of FT teaching positions have decreased markedly leaving PT teachers responsible for excessive hours of classes. The average age of FT TAFE teachers has also increased markedly as attrition through death and retirement is not replaced by new younger blood.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is staffed by dedicated, well qualified, skilled teachers who produce industry ready graduates, backed by a 100+ year tradition of meeting industry needs.

Submitted by

Graham Short of Cremorne

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Mary Nolan, of Cottesloe make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a volunteer, in the postcode of WA 6011.

I am a volunteer in the Australian Migrant English Programme which is conducted at Central TAFE in Perth. I assist the class teacher.

Migrants and refugees need to learn English to survive.

My daughter was trained in fashion at TAFE. She could have gone any University in Perth but opted for the practical training of a TAFE fashion course. She still works in the fashion industry.

My husband studied at TAFE while he was working and qualified with accountancy skills. So this was a second chance. He was accepted into University after school but

due to family finances opted not to pursue that avenue. TAFE gave him a second chance to qualify as an accountant and to get a job in the oil and gas industry.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

N/A I live in Perth.

I have heard stories and seen about some rather questionable courses offered by private companies where students are not taught skills adequately e.g. brick laying. It's dangerous and unethical to have people doing drummed up courses which don't skill them. TAFE ensures that high standards are met, some private providers do not.

I believe there was a cut in staff re ordering books etc. and other study aids.

I honestly don't know but I hear that there are cuts and staff don't have a lot of job security.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it provides important practical skills in the work force which are needed if Australia is to avoid unemployment, particularly youth unemployment. My daughter qualified with a Diploma in Fashion in TAFE which gave her entry into the fashion industry where she still works. Job security is a worry for all Australians as there is so much insecure work including employers to quote a source I know of, but won't name, who "don't like part-time work." I believe Australia is the leader now in casual work, overtaking Spain. This is not an acceptable way to run a country. Secure work is important for the mental health of all Australians. The growing pressure on young people trying to access work is ridiculous. Change it by ensuring that TAFE is properly funded NOW. MARY NOLAN, AGED 66, MOTHER OF 2 TWO DAUGHTERS, VERY CONCERNED ABOUT

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING AFFORDABILITY FOR MY CHILDREN.

Submitted by

Mary Nolan of Cottesloe

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, norman kable, of kincumber make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retired, in the postcode of 2251.

Sydney Tech College was the most important part of my working life. Their teaching set me up to succeed in the business i eventually started and made me not only a good boss but a much better person all round. An absolute disgrace to even think of destroying such a wonderful and necessary institution.

The quality of the teachers give the apprentices the necessary skills to carry out their working tasks and to respect their fellow workers.

I wasn't a good student at school but i loved every minute of my time at tech because the teachers made every task so interesting.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means all kids can get the education they deserve and are entitled to...

No ,i have no knowledge of this subject.

Parents of my grandson have told me of the poor range of courses available to their children.

Most definetely.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because if they dont all the great and necessary skill needed for the future of Australia will be lost,and Australian tradesmen are among the best in the worldâ€¦!

Submitted by

norman kable of kincumber

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Michael Roberts, of Mooloolaba make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Mobile plant operator, in the postcode of 4557.

When I left school year 10 I went to tafe as I did not like school and year 11-12 would have been a waste of time I did a pre voc plumbing course which taught me so much and got me ready for life after school and the real world 10 years later I was back at tafe doing welding courses and starting plumbing apprenticeship not all people are made to finish school and go to university but tafe gives people like me a choice to better ourselves

Helps develop real life skills and meeting people of all age groups

It helped me and a few of my friends who weren't that smart at school but good with using our hands get into the building trade and earn a very good income to support our

future family's

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...a lot of kids in the future will not get the chance I did and get the skills to help with this countrys success lots of people can't afford the very high university fees

Yes and the goals keep changing to get that certifate so you have to keep paying more money to get all the modules done that keep changing for that certifate

Yes less courses that used to be offered making travel to big cities and costing a lot of money

Increase in fees - courses cut

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€it's our kids of the future that will be here when we are gone and we want this country to be a country where everyone can better themselves not just the rich

Submitted by

Michael Roberts of Mooloolaba

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, julie webster, of picnic point make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a 2213, in the postcode of nsw 2213.

I am a commercial Cookery teacher who has done many courses through TAFE that has helped me develop as a teacher, and become an expert in my field. Now the government is cutting our positions after they trained us and spent thousands sending us to University. Now they want to get rid of us and put on casuals who only have cert 4

Without TAFE the rich will be the only ones who can afford education, the poor will not be able to.

Men in prison excess courses through TAFE, this will then now be out of there reach, resulting in them going back to prison, and costing us \$100,00 a year to keep them

there. They will also go back to prison faster as they will not have the skills to be able to get a job on the outside.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes this means that again the poor will be uneducated, and once TAFE gets rid of its teachers, the standard of education will go down and be watered down

Yes, I did 2 courses lately, they taught to the exam, and even give you the answers, they had no time to spend on students, just a factory, after the course I remembered nothing

TAFE cuts are effecting moral as they are cutting teaching positions from the full time teachers, and the casuals who just come in and get paid go home and leave the equipment and facilities in a mess

Equipment is not fixed, they have people in positions who sit on their ass and do nothing, while teachers are trying to get the work done. Nothing has been maintained.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because our children will have no education, education has the power to transform lives, and this silly government, doesn't care about our children, Ok to build school halls, and put pink bats in everyones ceilings, but in 10 years time, we will need to build more prisons to put all the young uneducated kids into that are just going to do anything to make money. This country is stuffed

Submitted by

julie webster of picnic point

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Wayne Lovis, of Broken Hill make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Council worker, in the postcode of 2880.

My first experience with Tafe was an pre-employment course which gave us exposure to areas in different Trades. I then obtained a aircraft mechanic apprenticeship and went to local Tafe to do 1st yr auto mechanic course. Air Taxi business went under, so went underground as labourer. 2yrs later I restarted auto mechanic course at 2nd yr level, in my own time ,which allowed me to apply for adult apprenticeship on the Mine as a Plant Mechanic. Went to Tafe to do 3yr Plant Mechanic trade course which I passed and completed apprenticeship.

Have done a few short course, Chemical handling, Computer hardware, Cert.1 in IT etc ...So I guess I have had a little bit of experience doing Tafe courses, in that time all the classes have had one teacher who stands at the front and teachers and is available to answer questions immediately.

My last experience with Tafe was a little over 12mths ago where I 'started' an OHS certificate course at a cost of \$340, we had one teacher, teaching 6 different courses in 2 class rooms.....I left totally frustrated after 4 lessons.... the teacher barely taught us anything while running between class rooms and had no time to answer Questions. Since then I have called it TAFE CORP... instead of being an educational institution it has become a financial institution. I once had a high regard for Tafe...no longer. Unless they change their current practices I will no longer look to Tafe IF I ever decide to do any course in the future.

If you need to do a Trade course, then its TAFE or nothing.

If Tafe had not allowed me to continue with my auto trade course in my own time I would not have obtained my Plant Mechanic apprenticeship.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...it is my only option. Well was.... because of the current set up of Tafe I no longer consider doing any courses.

N/A.. here in the bush :)

refer to my answer in Q2

Again refer to Q2

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because I have walked away from further education because of the joke Tafe has become and the frustration I felt.

Submitted by

Wayne Lovis of Broken Hill

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Rob Davies, of Densitone make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Technical Officer, in the postcode of 2109.

I am a university graduate and worked as a science teacher until 2003. I then got work supporting computers and servers in a special school, as well as teaching computing to the students. Eight years ago I enrolled in a TAFE online course to improve my IT Administration skills , and found it to be very helpful.

I have paid for industry certification courses in computing but these have not actually taught me much that is useful. The TAFE course I did was broader and more useful. These days everyone must expect to keep learning new things so they can remain useful to employers and society. TAFE offers good courses at reasonable prices to do this. It is far better and more useful than every private course I have ever done (and I've done a dozen over the past 15 years)

I left full-time teaching because I had a breakdown. Going into the computer industry was my second chance and the TAFE course helped consolidate that transition.

Not one of the private courses I did was any more than a cramming session for an exam. Teaching information useful to my work was not the priority.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because people like me need help with a second chance, just like TAFE gave me.

Submitted by

Rob Davies of Densitone

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Luke Hudson, of Berri make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Rigger, in the postcode of 5343.

I'm a Rigger crane Operator, Scaffolder working in heavy industry, mining and shutdowns of power stations

Its often that training is run by TAFE like OH&S training and upgrading current tickets is required like First Aid Training and Working at Heights, Or EWP tickets and others like Forklift training. Ive seen less of these available in my area and need to do a First Aid course soon.

The Big Company's complain about trades shortages in Australia and while that is not entirely true as they just do not want to pay and want to promote overseas cheap labor. But why would the Aussie government what to make it that way unless there is something more synical going on Like an effort to destroy the middle class of Australia like the US has done.

Australia needs to promote education, People should either be at work or studying, No one on the unemployment benefits, Austudy only. Even disabled people can learn computers and do other things. People should be employed by government to find the equity in people and not get paid just throw them a cheque.

Give a man a fish for teach him to fish. There's Far to many bludgers in this country. You know this by the way they hold themselves and they way they dress for the unemployment office.

Dumb Women should have their ovaries removed.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means..

I can't believe its come to this filling out a form like this in what? Australia?. Has our government gone mad. Oh that's right they are a corporation not a government. We didn't even have a referendum on Rupert Murdoch's Nephew getting \$10M of Taxpayers Money to do cloud seeding or Blue sky seeding as i see it Chemtrails.

Our False government is Treasonous What do you expect.

Yeah well they had to cut the TAFE Budget to help sponsor Rupert Murdoch's Nephew didn't they. How else are they going to get back the \$10M?.

Of course its by design The puppet masters make it that way they do not want any country in the world to be self dependent and they want to keep power and control.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because you need to at least pretend to care or you will have civil unrest.

Submitted by

Luke Hudson of Berri

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Janette DADD, of Tuross Head make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a casual teacher, in the postcode of 2537.

My son, James, continued to study after completing his HSC. He did a carpenter's apprenticeship course. He worked in the industry for awhile, but has now returned to tertiary education studying in Humanities School at Latrobe University. TAFE has kept him continue study after high school. He was able to stay at home during this study, as the local TAFE offered him a course of study while he served out his apprenticeship with a local builder.

My story comes from the other angle. I completed a degree at Macquarie University in 1979. I spent thirty one years teaching general primary. Through all those years, of teaching and raising children one of the main carrots that kept me working hard for everyone else, was that I had decided that upon retirement, I would go back to TAFE and study Fine Arts. (During a period of unemployment I had been accepted into the

Diploma of Fine Arts at Goulburn TAFE. This study was discontinued when I took up a full time teaching position at Bodalla Public School. This choice was made as I was the sole incomer earner for my children) I enrolled at Bega TAFE in 2012 and was doing a Certificate III in Visual Arts and Contemporary Craft. This course and all Arts and Media courses were cut by the O'Farrell government. Later, our course was offered to us again as we were only one year through a two year course, but at such an inflated cost that none of the participants could afford it. Now only universities offer the courses and I cannot afford to move to a city and I do not wish to study externally as it was the classroom interaction of the course that was its strength. I have already study in isolation and did not wish to do this again. Visual arts work never shows up as well on computer as to the naked eye. Just impossible!!

As infrastructure in Australia is aging or modernised, trade skills are more and more in demand.TAFE offered education that could be (with the help of apprenticeship schemes and the like) done in rural areas without backbreaking costs to the student. Schemes where Government encourages employers to take on apprentices, benefits both people, plus the whole of society. Some people learn best by doing, but by theory alone. This is scaffolding that TAFE provides for our community.

At Bega TAFE there was a young woman who had failed to complete school to HSC standard as she became pregnant. This young woman was doing the 'bridging' course, to gain her HSC so she could then proceed to University to study nursing. Hence TAFE was provided a means for a person to move from a position of social dependency to a livelihood that could support herself and her child and use the intelligence that was innate in her. Again because of O'Farrell cuts, these courses have been removed. What will happen to this person? I hope she does not end up with self esteem depleted and, with a broken spirit, been prepared to accept social security payments or menial underpay work, becuse that TAFE bridge has been removed.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means a lot to me. I feel I have already addressed this previously. In letters to NSW State Government, I made the point and make it again today, that for young rural students TAFE years are vital. Many young people, especially in the western regions of NSW, are not equipped financially or emotionally to move straight to a large metropolitan area straight after completing high school. The TAFE buffer gives these people a chance to mature and 'find their feet' financially, before heading off to larger centres. Regional tertiary education facilities are vital for this reason, among others.

I have done some private lessons, but not at a college. These give me an intellectual outlet, but no accreditation for my study. The costs are much higher, so after one eight week course in oil painting, I cannot continue.

As mentioned, Bega TAFE has had courses cut or re-offered at extremely high (unaffordable, as no HECS is available) prices. Staff have been cut because of government cost cutting.

Again, I have addressed this previously. However, I know that for some of the people in the art course, the study offered was helping them recover from mental illness. Governments need to think laterally. Maintaining courses that seem to have no 'job' outcome, can in fact save government expenditure, by keeping people and communities mentally and physically vital, hence a healthy population. Win, win for all. Politicians need to develop philosophical outlooks, rather than just economic as people are not machines or robots. A strong society keeps its basic building blocks strong otherwise the society tumbles into chaos.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is like a firewall in a computer. It needs to be maintained to stop social virus and injustice

weakening the fabric of the social democracy of our land. We can not all be rich, but we can all be encouraged to make the best use of our talents. If people are happy in themselves, they become better members of society. Thank you.

Submitted by

Janette DADD of Tuross Head

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Brenda Kilmore, of Kensington make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Secondary Teacher, in the postcode of 2010.

I attended Tafe for short courses such as typing, word processing and PowerPoint courses when computers first became affordable for households and schools.

As a high school teacher I see TAFE courses as invaluable as offering alternative pathways to university and for training people for trades and skill based jobs such as hairdressing.

I also look forward to attending TAFE later in life to complete other short courses of interest.

It is the main institution that trains young people for trades. It also offers an alternative pathway for university entrance. In addition it offers an alternative to those students who do not fit comfortably into the high school setting.

Not personally but I know students attend TAFE to do bridging courses to allow them another chance at entry to a university course.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

No I live in Sydney

No but I am sure there are some and these will continue to grow if the TAFE sector contracts due to poor funding. Just what we don't need is an inferior product!

A friend who teaches at TAFE has had her hours cut and the number and variety of courses on offer has been reduced.

See previous answer.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it fills an essential and unique role in the education offered to Australians. It would be sheer stupidity to let this sector shrink.

Submitted by

Brenda Kilmore of Kensington

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Colin Bayne, of Lalor make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a disability worker, in the postcode of 3075.

All of my three children have attended TAFE including myself. I worked in the printing industry for 25years until technology and my age/employability took over. TAFE training has enabled my to extend my working life in a different career as a disability worker. I obtained a certificate IV in disability (NMIT) and the an Advanced Diploma in Disability studies (RMIT). I now earn more than I would have in my original trade but the work is a lot more challenging and socially sensitive

TAFE was easy to access and the tutors were working class which is a major advantage. They were well educated and related to students on all levels. The skills were delivered ready for use in real occupations in the community.

I became ill and was made redundant which cause me to rethink my life. We have a

family member with ASD and my family has benefited from TAFE in more ways than just employment. Four of us in my own family have attended TAFE for employment training because that was the only education available and affordable.

I live in the Northern suburbs

Yes. Even without the attack on TAFE there are quite a few low quality training options put forward by opportunistic businesses.

This is evidenced in the advertisements in local newspapers.

I am at present not attending TAFE so I don't see it directly but the amount of unqualified people applying to work in disability is increasing.

The Advanced Diploma in Disability Studies was dropped from RMIT which means no higher qualification for students who wish to progress in the field.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because there are no alternatives for those changing careers (as we all will), migrants with no skills will have no options, young people who don't attend university will be disadvantaged, single parents will find it difficult to return to school. The list is HUGE!!!!

Submitted by

Colin Bayne of Lalor

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Justin Tordean, of Mortdale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a bag handler, in the postcode of 2020.

I am a married 40 year old with two wonderful children. I work the graveyard shift at the airport and then come to Tafe to study during the day fulltime. Between all of that I try to find time to be with my children and family.

After my own media business went belly up, I didn't want to quit and let myself do dead-end jobs to pay for my childrens education for the rest of my life. Instead I decided to re-educate myself on where I could improve my Business and make sure that I do not repeat the same mistakes, but learn instead how to avoid, deal and move on from them.

It is very hard work to raise a family, support them and study (I fall asleep on the lounge covered in books and homework everynight), however it is a move that I never do regret and would be by far (Besides getting married with two understanding kids) be

the best move i've ever made.

Randwick Tafe has been extremely supportive in my hardest times, especially in the Media department with Anthony and Huseyin, the Library, the cafe (Who at times let me get away with extra hot chips) and the office people who are always helping me with my paperwork in order.

When my Media Business went bust, I was left wondering where I could have gone wrong and what to do.

While studying at Tafe I have not only found how to get back on my feet, but how to come back stronger than ever and provide for my family as well as my employees in the future.

Since I have been studying in Tafe fulltime, I have been able to land possible lucrative contracts with one multi-National company and possibly two major Networks who may be happy to fund my projects and crew. It is the break through of a lifetime I could not have done without the 'know how' from Tafe.

You cannot learn how to do a break through like that from any where else. there is no school out there that teaches it to you! No High School or Privately owned school would come even close! The Media department in Tafe is the best around to get ahead in a industry of closed doors, no other school comes close, not even the University. Tafe is hands on, other schools just talk about it.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means that I can learn to do get ahead in my work life, that would have otherwise left me at a dead end.

Yes it is very apparent! I have know (really) hundreds of people in the same business as I who have been left paying for a course that left them exactly where they had started.

I know at least 20 people from the University who can't be employed, because they hadn't learned the basic tools or even the advanced tools to be able to work in the field of Media. It is the same from the Privately owned schools.

They all teach Aesthetics or just show pictures of equipment students never get to touch. TAFE has that equipment and we all learn from 'Using' them.

Cuts to courses is huge. Sometimes an essential class is cut because of budgetary restraints. Manytimes much needed equipment is really needed to help us, or we don't have enough to go around so we end up missing out. In the Media part of education we cannot be cheap, because it is needed to learn and get work in the industry.

We are all finding it harder, because these tools they are cutting from us is what gets us work and understanding in a very a competative industry. The teachers are trying hard to show us and get us to learn skills that can only be taught 'hands-on', but because of these cuts we can never really understand it.

It's like learning and teaching someone how to play the piano without an actual piano. Some things you can't just do without.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦ We have the best school in the industry because they teach us with the right equipment and skills that give us a future!

I work myself to the bone every night to provide for my family who I love more than anything in the world, and during the day I study and work harder to provide my family a future they much deserve.

Sometimes I would love just to be able to spend more time with them.

But I can't.

Please don't make this sacrifice I make everday to be in vain. Please don't rob me or others who put themselves in the hands of your education system to be better people.

We become better people through the hard work we put in and the tools 'you' give us at Tafe.

Thank you.

Submitted by

Justin Tordean of Mortdale

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Adrian Rice, of Warrandyte make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a head of Department, in the postcode of 3076.

I didn't go to TAFE but have worked in three TAFEs in Vic. From '91- '96 at Dandenong/Casey; '96 - '02 at Holmesglen and since 2011 at NMIT. I work in ESL and have seen countless new migrants benefit and grow through their studies in ESL and then mainstream TAFE.

A huge number of migrants that come to this country pass through TAFE. Many of course are in ESL and Foundation Study courses which are less affected by cuts - at least directly so but there will be indirect impact through cuts to ancillary services, etc. TAFE enables these new migrants to develop employment ready skills along with the communication skills that have become increasingly sophisticated and technical over the last decade. TAFE courses support and enable these students to add to or

formalise their existing skills to become net contributors in their new country in a number of industries.

I have seen numerous examples of migrant students with trade skills but without recognised trade qualifications go on to gain qualifications and enhance their skills before gaining employment. I have seen numerous students develop high level English proficiency and study skills and then move into employment often via Higher Education to employment.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

A check of the Aged Care of Child Care industries will quickly reveal that many Centres only employ individuals with quals from TAFE. Those gained from the poorly regulated (quick and dirty) private RTOs are clearly inferior.

Yes. Courses have been cut. At least one campus will be closed during 2014 and teachers are being asked to take VRPs.

While the cut in courses is an obvious result, the negative publicity circulating about TAFE has also, we believe resulted in reduced enrolments this semester.

The TAFE sector in Victoria is professional, well regulated and managed and an important component of ensuring that qualifications and experience of students, staff and trainers contribute to a sophisticated and professional future workforce. I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded to ensure its continued relevance.

Submitted by

Adrian Rice of Warrandyte
Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, John McLaren, of N Carlton make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retired, in the postcode of 3054.

In the seventies, for a time I taught English to students in a TAFE College. Without these courses, these students would not hve been able to pursue the education or careers to which they aspired.

TAFE contribues to a strong economy by training people in work skills, to the individual by adding to life satisfaction, and to the community by making it more inclusive.

The TAFE students I taught, and others I have observed who left school in Melbourne's western suburbs, found through TAFE education and courses they could not otherwise have aspired to.

Not living in a big area, students not able to go to TAFE lose life chances.

Poorly regulated colleges have collapsed, leading to hardship for the students and diminishing Australia's standing in countries from which many of their students have come.

At least two unique courses--in veterinary nursing and boat-building--have been terminated.

Budget cuts have led to an erosion of standards and range of courses available in public colleges.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is integral to Australia's post-school education system.

Submitted by

John McLaren of N Carlton

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Llewellyn Biggar, of Leu mean make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Head teacher, in the postcode of 2560.

Every time I look at the local paper subcontractor ads page and start realise what a great job TAFE has done.. This is based on the fact that more than a third of the ads are students who are now self employed tradesmen who have gained their skills at the local TAFE. This is representative of my suburb only, how many other suburbs can boast this as an association with TAFE

See previous comment

All the self employed tradespeople mentioned herein commenced their training TAFE without an apprenticeship and as such we searching for an opportunity to turn their lives around. Job done!

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...being able to contribute to society through skills learned at TAFE

No but we have international students who sought Recognition for competencies gained through private colleges that were not worth the paper they were written on. In reality, this reflected badly in that these skills could not support progression to a higher level

This is seen on a daily basis whereby quality training is threatened because clients do not get the required as TAFE is being forced to do more with less

LOW morale

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because unless there is a significant injection of cash, skills shortages will become the norm and as such we will be detrimental to our future economy as well as a threat to the livelihoods of our grandchildren

Submitted by

Llewellyn Biggar of Leu mean

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Helen Clayton, of Wagga make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Swimming instructor, in the postcode of 2650.

I'm the mother of four young boys and I would like them to have the opportunity to gain quality vocational education.

TAFE is vital in ensuring future trades skills are maintained

My husband left the banking industry and retrained as an electrician 15 years ago and has never looked back on the decision. His TAFE studies were crucial in his success we enjoy today

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Tutorial support services have been cut which makes it increasingly hard for apprentices studying in a high risk trade such as electrotechnology.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦

Submitted by

Helen Clayton of Wagga

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Bruce Jackson, of Bellambi make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retired surveyor, in the postcode of 2518.

Whilst I was in my early to middle 20's and working full-time, I studied surveying part-time at Sydney TAFE for which I paid a very small fee and would have only partly covered the administration costs. My now wife studied road design also at Sydney TAFE whilst working full-time. We both had careers with the DMR / RTA until retiring. My wife also worked overseas using her TAFE qualifications and until recently worked for SMEC designing roads for the Pacific Highway upgrade, M7, and parts of some projects that were to be constructed overseas.

Several projects undertaken by TAFE trained personnel of the DMR / RTA for use in-house were eventually made into commercial packages and sold overseas, thereby earning valuable export dollars.

One example of this is SCATS.

As I had left school at 14 and my education was not at the standard needed to start the TAFE surveying course, I needed bridging courses to be eligible to start the surveying course which were supplied by TAFE.

Wollongong TAFE once ran surveying courses but these are now available only in Sydney, which makes it more difficult for people who live further south of Wollongong, for example, Nowra / Batemans Bay.

There have been plenty of examples exposed by ABC TV programs of the problems and shonky dealings with private colleges in Victoria.

I have heard of the problems that are caused by cuts to TAFE funding, courses, etc., from friends that have recently retired from TAFE but have no personal experience.

I worry that the current Liberal dominated New South Wales government are trying to follow the previous Greiner governments objectives of privatising everything or following the "slash and burn until it stops bleeding" ideas as everything can be bought cheaper overseas and imported here at no cost to our economy or population !

Submitted by

Bruce Jackson of Bellambi

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, John Wilkins, of Bayswater make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Telecommunications Technician, in the postcode of 6000.

2. After a very average high school performance and several boring years of bank work I decided I needed to pull my finger out and further my education. A government funded career aptitude test pointed me towards Electronic Engineering. As I was struggling to make an living in Perth, and with the rest of my family in the country, I had limited resources at my disposal. Fortunately TAFE was there for me. It was the early nineties and TAFE was basically fee free. Combine that benefit with Austudy and I was able study full time and survive financially, with the help of a part time job at an electronics shop. The TAFE Campus I attended was a bit run down but reasonably well equipped and the teachers were enthusiastic and knowledgeable. My fellow students were an eclectic bunch of young & mature individuals from all walks of life seeking to

better themselves. Two years later I had an Advanced Certificate of Electronics which landed me a full time construction job in a large telecommunications company. A year after that I had an Associate Diploma in Electronics and a Certificate in Telecommunications, obtained through part time TAFE studies with the support of my new employer. TAFE tuition fees were gradually being introduced around this time, and I counted myself fortunate to have not been slugged with those from the outset. I am extremely grateful for the opportunities I was given, both educational and financial. Because of TAFE I have enjoyed full time employment in the field of my choice for almost twenty years. TAFE has played a very important role in my life.

3. TAFE provides opportunities for those not wanting, or not able to attend university. It gives solid tertiary education and skills to thousands, which are recognised and tailored by industry to meet the current requirements.

4. Refer Point 2.

5. No

6. I see a lot of small colleges around my work. There is a business school, beauty school, forklift training centre and language school. I am unaware of what their costs or standards are like.

7. I have not attended TAFE for many years but I have seen quite a lot of construction around the Central TAFE. I have been advised of cutbacks at the East Perth Campus. It looks as though it will never be built to its original grand design.

8. Unable to comment - no experience.

9. I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because I'm not a big fan of the privatisation of education. If all colleges had been driven by the need to make profit when I was trying to further my education there is a good chance the opportunities that I was offered would not have existed. I dread to think of a situation where only the wealthy can afford a good education, and institutions such as Government Primary & Secondary Schools, and TAFE are cut back to the bare minimum, providing a safety net just for the lower socioeconomic groups. Please don't let this happen.

Submitted by

John Wilkins of Bayswater

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Barry Bennett, of BLACKWOOD make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Lecturer, in the postcode of 5049.

I work in TAFE I train welders and boilermaker apprentices plus tradesmen in post trade subjects where there is a huge shortage, and thats why there are lots of 457 visa welders coming into this country at the moment. Some of these 457 visa holders are also doing welder certification and certificate 3 in trades because there own countries qualifications are not that good.

TAFE can only train students sent by employers or who who would like to upgrade there skills for the future and are willing to pay and also to put in effort and time. Some of the students I train get reduced government fees but when they have finished there courses earn large wages,this means they pay large amounts of income tax for the rest of there lives. Not a bad return for a few dollars subsidy by the government. Some

as third year apprentices earn more than me as a Lecturer.

We often get students who would never make it at Uni but go on to get a trade that pays better than some graduates and a certain future.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means... All areas are now the same big or small campuses are being closed even if they are so full of students that they are fuuly booked up for courses and have to top up staffing levels with part time instuctors. Some of the problems are actually caused by TAFE management and directors manipulating figures and budgets to suit there own needs. An example of this is to spend over 3.5 million at Norlunga campus on the engineering department when there are very few students at the site making it not viable to even keep all the lecturers employed. Also to close the Panorama campus that is the busiest engineering campus in South Australia and move it to Regency campus that has closed programs and sent them to Panorama but also has been a huge looser of money for years. This also means there is no TAFE between Mount Gambia and Regency where apprentices can do a Certificate 3 in Fabrication/Welding or a diploma in engineering. So even in Adelaide we are disadvantaging students.

We constantly get students from private providers that have done courses and have no where near the knowledge and skills that they should have, this is a great disadvantage to them when they come to us and try to do the next level of training. I am costantly asked why are they allowed to get away with this quality of training by the students themselves when they see the difference. When Mitsubishi closed Private training companies signed off and gave RPL for lots of subjects done in house by Mitsubishi, they earned a fortune from the government doing tick and flick and TAFE got hardley anything because they would not sign off on skills that were not there, some weeks later some of these workers came to our campus to do the next levels of

these subjects that were given to them instead of training one of these students was a union leader and made a complaint to the government about the RPL when he found out about the lack of knowledge and skill he had in this subject and the required skills needed to move on to this next level.

,

Yes they are closing Panorama , Ohalleran Hill, Croyden and Marlestone TAFE. It is said to have one centre of excellence at Regency. The truth is they want to sell sites to build a really small workshop TAFE at the Mitsubishi site but with really top offices for management. also to force students to Regency where they are spending \$12 million at a TAFE that has lost money, made staff redundant, transferred courses to Panorama and is very hard to travel to by car or public transport when \$1 million would have updated Panorama and being the choice of most students could have managed very well. There would not have been lots of fancy offices this could have influenced the decision.

While using millions of \$ to waste on Norlunga site and Rgency site we have struggled to get \$200 to repair a machines at times, this is a way of running down areas over time and then saying its to expensive to update. some welding machines we use are 30 years old and have been de valued to \$0 then revalued back up to \$2000 to save replacing them. If machinery is brought from a department budget and then sold as it gets old, the money is quite often put into another departments budget to try and make figures suit management needs. Panorama TAFE and students have quite often been punished for producing to much work using all there government funding hours up before the end of the year this has trebled the course prices to our students while other campuses can not produce even half there required hours. Management would not allow transfer of hours from these campuses that did not meet requirements to Panorama because of there own interests.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦We have enough unemployed and school leavers to not have to bring in skills from other countries where quite often most of the money earned is not spent keeping local business going but is sent abroad. The people of this country are capable of being as skilled as any other country if we use modern equipment as per industry and are not held back by management with self interest and very poor skills and knowledge of the subject and area they are managing ie tourism and social studies managing engineering.

Submitted by

Barry Bennett of BLACKWOOD

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Elsa Nera, of Westmead make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retired registered nurse, in the postcode of 2145.

I am a overseas trained registered nurse. The heavy lifting, the unholy shifts, politics with the never ending added workload including the stress from demanding patients and their families made me think of an alternative job. I enrolled in TAFE did part time Diploma in Community Services (Children's Services). I finished the course in two years time. I did the course to have something to fall back into in case I couldn't handle the pressure of the nursing profession any longer.

TAFE had been the sanctuary of those who were unable to get a high HSC mark to still go around the course they would like to study through TAFE to achieve their goals in life. This is particularly a very important training institution for our would be tradesmen.

Some people are late bloomers like a person I know. In his younger years didn't really think of education seriously a happy go lucky chap. He gets all the menial jobs just to have some spending money until suddenly waking up from being a couch potato. He enrolled in a cooking course in TAFE. This time he was serious with studies until he was able to get into uni. At the moment he is a masters degree holder in nutrition and currently working as one of the chefs in our public hospital

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means under privileged people will still have a good chance to acquire education and skills to improve themselves and be an asset to the country.

I have no encounter of poorly regulated private colleges aside from the news items. The scams involving the private colleges victimising foreign students in particular.

Yes I was starting to feel the effect of budget cuts during my time in TAFE. School fees have increased, teachers are not happy. The morale in the campus is deteriorating due to budget cuts.

I honestly couldn't respond to this question as I am not a student anymore.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because this is the only chance available to the late bloomers as in the case of the person I know to be able to get educated and have a profession. I still believe that education is the key to nation building therefore the government both state and federal should exert every effort that this is met. Education makes a better person and a better person make a great nation.

Submitted by

Elsa Nera of Westmead

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Angela Natalier, of Springwood make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a jeweller, in the postcode of 4127.

I have been part of the TAFE community on 2 separate occasions. One for study, and the other, for employment.

I studied with Southbank TAFE (QLD) as part of my jewellery apprenticeship. I was taught some of the most valuable long term techniques and information through TAFE, which helped me in my apprenticeship and my jewellery career beyond. I was trained by trade experienced educators, that were able to directly relate to the jewellery trade and the needs my employers wanted me to gain knowledge in to help myself and their business. The training was invaluable.

My second experience with TAFE was as an employee teaching short jewellery courses to adult learners. All of the staff and supervisors were helpful, and offered me guidance or advice when I needed, they organised the course proficiently and were

able to overcome certain constraints they faced with funding cuts and classroom/workshop cutbacks. They focused on the learning environment, and always tried their best to provide optimum resources and materials for the students.

I believe that TAFE is an important part of trade in Australia. TAFE allows trades to produce an extremely valuable resource in knowledgeable and proficiently trained apprentices and tradesmen, in all facets of trade, not just the building trade. It provides important training to allow skills to stay within Australia, fulfilling important roles within the trade industries. Any reduction in the effectiveness of TAFE i.e cutbacks, will force industry to look elsewhere for skill and manufacture. Without TAFE, I see a future that encourages lower standards of goods. I also see lower standards of skill in the trade workforce.

Especially through my teaching for TAFE, I know that a lot of the students (mature age) did the course to pursue a career in design and or jewellery manufacture. I actually did a reference for a student of my short course that enabled her to get an apprenticeship in a very reputable jewellery manufacturer on the Sunshine Coast. I know that Southbank TAFE now offers a course that has enabled many students to gain apprenticeships in jewellery.

I have definitely noticed the budget cuts affecting Southbank TAFE, as they are the only TAFE that offers the course requirements for someone to become a qualified jewellery tradesman in QLD. I have noticed the facility becoming smaller and because of cuts, not being able to offer more of the modules that I, myself had the privilege, it seems, to do. The incentives surrounding the trade to have apprentices has dwindled. This in turn has affected student numbers and then in turn has reduced the funding to

the courses offered. I have seen teachers hours being dramatically reduced, and in some instances a week is shared between 2 part time teachers, that used to be both full time. The tools and workshop now has limited resources for the course, so that teaching is becoming more difficult and restricted. The fees have risen, even though these resources have been cut.

All I can say, is that through many discussions with various jewellery forums and groups, this topic is very important to us and the wider jewellery community, as it also determines the direct growth and continuation of the jewellery trade within this country. The TAFE program for apprentices of all trades is very important to nurture and care for as it determines the wealth of our country through our trades. Trades that provide so many jobs nationwide and provide so many needed services to the population. Trades are the backbone of the economy. The trade education provided by TAFE's throughout the country are essential and especially in the jewellery industry, not offered by ANY other institution in entirety.

It is imperative that the TAFE system is not only allowed to continue, but funding needs to increase to allow it to prosper. TAFE has played an extremely important role in my career, and the career of almost all of my peers. Cut backs to TAFE will destroy some trades and damage others, beyond return. We need to support our trades, so we need to support TAFE and the important role it plays in Australian trades.

Submitted by

Angela Natalier of Springwood

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, leisa pullar, of cessnock make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a horticulturist, in the postcode of 2212.

I started tafe in the early nineties and have done alot of courses in that period of time my courses were affordable and practical. I want to go back but instead of them costing \$150 a semester they will cost \$750 a semester.....why do you think there is a shortage of tradespersons!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

tafe is a good introduction for the practical skills that we need to learn when we are young. it's great for students who may not be able to afford university

without tafe I would not be employed or qualified

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...it doesnt help our region

because the courses are too expensive for the average person to do while working and looking after family

it started with the federal liberal government Brendan Nelson and o'farell had succeeded in making it worse... there have been many courses that I couldn't finish because of teacher shortages

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the worker/tradesperson is very important to our society...they help our community function

Submitted by

leisa pullar of cessnock

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, maree yates, of coochiemudlo island make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a nurse, in the postcode of 4128.

I had been unfairly stood down from my job at Centrelink over an industrial issue and was doing some disability care work with people in their homes; I wanted to do some hands on work with people after my experience with Centrelink. I had also just committed myself to a home loan having bought my ex partner out of our mortgage. I was not making enough money with split shifts and part time jobs and was raising my teenage son alone and I wanted to do some tertiary study but could not afford to take the time off to go to university for 3 years and pay my mortgage at the same time. I enrolled in an 18 month diploma of nursing course at Moreton Tafe at Alexandra Hills and was able to complete it whilst working 3 part time jobs as a personal disability carer. I was immediately offered a job with Qld Health at the Spinal Injuries Unit at the PA hospital during my final work experience and commenced there straight after I

finished the course. It was touch and go as I had been paying my mortgage on my credit card for the last couple of months of the course and was worried I would lose my house - but i did not miss a payment and gained a qualification so that now 6 1/2 years later I am still employed at Qld Health and working as a community mental health nurse. I started the TAFE diploma course when I was 55 yo and had started and withdrew from various degree courses over the years as a sole parent. That 18 months at TAFE made a huge difference to my life and my financial security.

Well not everyone wants to or can go to university after grade 12. so TAFE provides a place where people of all ages can gain skills to make them employable in a lot of different industries. You can also take your qualifications from TAFE and RPL them to gain entry into a university course if you want to complete further study later.

As I stated above it made a huge difference to my life. I have considered going on to university to become a registered nurse but am satisfied at my age that I have achieved quite enough.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means..that many local and young people will not get a job without having to go to live or study in and urban area. More people leaving rural areas will result in those areas dying out

Not in my personal experience but I have heard of expensive courses being offered to overseas students and migrants

have heard that some TAFE colleges will lose some of their funding

There will be a lot more unemployment and a lot of youth wandering the streets unqualified and unmotivated - crime and drug taking could increase and mental health

will be affected.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because of the need for these colleges for people who do not fit into other tertiary or degree institutions - and apprentices rely on them to complete their tertiary requirements of their apprenticeships.

Submitted by

maree yates of coochiemudlo island

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Matt Sproule, of Seville Grove make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Intergrated rating, in the postcode of 6112.

I went to tafe to complete my cert 3 in marine transport and logistics. I provided me with a wealth of knowledge with most of the lecturers having had experience in the industry i work in. Tafe provided me with the extra training and understanding i need to further myself in my industry.

Yes i do believe that tafe contributes to the Australian workforce. Not everyone who wants to better themselves want to spend four years at university or maybe their training doesnt require them to have a degree. Tafe provides the hands on training required to work the blue collar industry. There are things that cant be taught through lectures they have to be shown and tried to be appreciated.

Tafe gave myself the chance to increase my skills set. There was no program relevant to my job at school or university. My jobs is hands on and tafe helped me to understand and apply the knowledge they taught into relevant work situations.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€tafe is the classroom for the blue collar australia and with the skills shortage all ready at our door step we cant afford to cut funding. This will bleed the blue collar industries dry

Submitted by

Matt Sproule of Seville Grove

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Lavinia Schofield, of Dee Why make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a nurse, in the postcode of 2099.

My husband first learnt English at TAFE with the english migrant program which was a fantastic help to him.

However, he still had trouble getting a job which I suspect was due to ageism and his poor english.

Therefore, he enrolled in Shopfitting and Joinery at TAFE and loves it. It lifted him out of a depression and led to volunteer work which has led to some casual paid work. He is now feeling useful again and I am more relaxed.

The recent cuts to his TAFE course mean that his teachers have been sacked or made

redundant. If he wants to continue next year he will have to travel very far to finish the last year. He is not going to, it's too far.

It's a fantastic alternative to finishing the last two years of school or to university. It can set people up with trade skills that allows them to then obtain employment.

I think it is absolutely essential to continue to provide quality training in hands-on trade professions.

My husband entered TAFE as a mature age student at 54 years which has helped him obtain work in an unskilled employment environment where employers don't choose mature aged people to work.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

no

cessation of my husband's course at North Sydney. Next year it will only be running at Lidcombe.

Decreased people's options for preparing or changing careers.

Please recognise the importance of maintaining a strong TAFE system to provide people of all ages the choices that we have enjoyed previously.

TAFE offers quality teaching at affordable prices in careers that are hugely popular and important. Privatisation and cost increases will unfairly discriminate against those of lower/middle income range.

Submitted by

Lavinia Schofield of Dee Why

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Joy Gallen, of Cessnock / Muswellbrook make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Corrections NSW, in the postcode of 2325 / 2333.

I have been to TAFE myself and also in the days when it was called Tech.

My two Sons have been to TAFE as well. Both got their qualifications for employment.

Where are people still going to, to get their qualifications for employment now and in 100 years time. That's right TAFE.

TAFE costs versus University costs, I know I had to choose TAFE for my Sons as I could not afford University and who can these days especially with continually rising costs of daily living.

One Son leaving Big W night fill to his level in the mining industry and my other Son

leaving tyre fitting to be a specialist in the mechanic industry

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...people of all ages can have that opportunity to study to gain employment in a field or industry in their area.

Cannot afford private colleges.

Courses are no longer available.

Harder to enrol and longer waiting periods.

Prices are ridiculously too high

High unemployment.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because of the importance it means to our communities to have TAFE for employment and keep our kids in the community and not have to move away from their areas.

Not only for our kids but also for adult learning where many Mums have gone to TAFE and joined the workforce.

Keep Australia alive by funding our TAFE's for teachers to provide courses and our population to be employed.

I can't believe how the PM can support this disaster when education is paramount.

Perhaps cuts of her and others income will save Australia.... I am totally disgusted as an Aussie about how the Government is cutting important assets and saving their own greed.

Submitted by

Joy Gallen of Cessnock / Muswellbrook

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Jonathan Green, of Khancoban make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Apprentice Electrician, in the postcode of 2642.

I doing an Electrical Apprenticeship, I'm currently in my third year.

Those who don't go to university still get the chance to get a good job and obtain experience

A lot of people I know have used TAFE as an alternative to going to university, it is a good gateway to getting a job, furthering education and skills.

I live in a rural area, where if I wanted to gain any training or do any courses I'd have to move to move, TAFE is the only option I have where I live to gain education.

Yes I have, course fees have risen and theres been in a lot more costs such as test resitting pricing increased drastically and only allowing one attempt. Probably attributed to by tutorial support being been cut for my classes, which has resulted in lower marks and other students failing units and their chances to catchup with the class reduced.

I've noticed the TAFE teachers seem to have a lot more work to do behind the scene preventing them from giving their whole attention to class. TAFE is having to move to online learning too, which is terrible, making it hard to gain the knowledge you need without a teacher to guide you.

It is vital that TAFE is well funded to provide the skills and equipment to properly train the countries trades. As a industrial electrician it would be impossible for me to gain the skills I need to work as an electrician anywhere in Australia, with the current TAFE cuts I see this training faltering, Australia doesn't need a work force of poorly trained tradesmen purely from the funding cuts to TAFE.

Submitted by

Jonathan Green of Khancoban

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Bronwyn Spencer, of Gordonvale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher aide, in the postcode of 4865.

I am now 60, but as a young person I did not finish Year 12, and some years later moved to an isolated mining area with my partner and 3 children. I spent my days educating my children by Correspondence and School of the Air. We had 2 more children, and I educated them from 1977 to 1993. In 1993 my partner secured work in town, and we moved into a rural town. Our 2 youngest children were still at school. I had no job skills or work experience, so I went to TAFE to do a course to assist unemployed people to re-enter the workforce. During that course, I became aware of a free course to become an adult literacy tutor. I completed both courses and began to volunteer work as a tutor in an adult literacy class at TAFE, and privately tutored some literacy students. I continued tutoring for several years, occasionally gaining employment with TAFE as a literacy tutor to students doing other TAFE courses. I was

later employed part time as an on-campus Learning Support Tutor at Atherton TAFE. I also studied Visual Arts part time at TAFE over several years. Eventually I did a course to become a teacher aide (Cert III in Education Support) , and volunteered in a primary school. Before I finished my course I had gained employment. I have been working for almost 8 years as a teacher aide, and now have permanent employment. I use my art studies at the school where I work, taking art classes at lunch time, twice a week. Without the TAFE courses I have undertaken, I cannot imagine any employer giving me a job, or indeed, me having the confidence to apply for one. The volunteer component of my TAFE courses has given me both experience and confidence to back up my studies. I am so grateful that the TAFE system has, at my age, enabled me to find not only employment, but satisfying, worthwhile employment. I LOVE my job!

Not only does TAFE enable people to learn new skills in an affordable way, but it enables people to build on existing experience, and add value to their experience so that their skills are up to date, and of use in a modern workplace. It enables people to study to improve their knowledge and skills, and no less important, for enjoyment and fulfilment. In my case the Art courses I studied for my own enjoyment have added to my repertoire of workplace skills, and it gives me immense satisfaction to be able to use these skills in my work. The fact that we can access these courses gives us access to lifelong learning, and makes our workforce much more responsive to the needs of employers.

As I have previously mentioned, without my TAFE studies I would not have had the confidence or skills to enter the workforce. Having spent most of my adult life as a mother and my children's home tutor, I had little hope of ever finding meaningful employment, until I began taking TAFE courses, and realised my potential.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE meant I had access to studies I would otherwise have been unable to access without moving. One of the courses I did remotely, with support from the local TAFE campus. The quality of the courses I have done was excellent, but I did find I was unable to complete my Diploma In Visual Art (having completed Certificate III in Visual Art and 2/3 of my Diploma) because there were not enough students in the regional area to continue to offer the course. Less funding will mean that this becomes more commonplace. I now live in an area where I could feasibly complete my Diploma, but having secured permanent work I no longer have the time.

I am also concerned that if TAFE loses funding there will be less access to courses that are not directly related to gaining or enhancing employment. During my time as an adult literacy tutor, I met many older people, with English as a second language, seeking to improve their engagement with society, and to better understand their adopted home, which, although it may not lead to employment, will still assist them in becoming a functioning part of our society.

During my time studying with TAFE, I also completed Certificate IV in Assessment and Workplace training with another service provider. I do not know whether it was private or government funded, but the standard of education was a lot lower than that of TAFE. I myself put in all the hours and the effort that was expected, but several of the participants put in little effort other than showing up (most of the work was to be done at home) and received their Certificate IV anyway, which I felt undermined the value of the effort that I and others had put in to our studies. If one can gain the certificate with little work then having the certificate proves nothing. A bit like getting one's certificate from the proverbial Cornflakes box.

My experience with TAFE is not very recent, but the axing of the Diploma of Visual Arts

when several students were 2/3 of the way through the course was a bitter disappointment. I had to assume it was due to funding cuts, but I would like to think that once one has begun a course one would be able to at least complete it. I did also notice, before I stopped working at the TAFE, that there was a stronger emphasis on job related studies, and less courses for self improvement. I think BOTH are important for a smart and vibrant society.

I cannot comment directly on how the state governments' funding cuts have impacted on the TAFE system because I have not been involved with the TAFE during the last few years, but I can see the way things are going across the board, in the public sector, and it leaves one with a great deal of fear for the future.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because people like myself, without access to TAFE courses, would continue to be a drain on society. Not from any wish not to work, but because they lack the skills and confidence to gain employment. The pathway through TAFE needs to be accessible, with support, such as I have provided at times, and affordable for all. The use of volunteers as a component of some TAFE courses, not only helps the TAFE system, but gives the volunteers valuable experience and confidence in their skills. I cannot emphasise enough that my path back to employment would never have been possible without TAFE!

Submitted by

Bronwyn Spencer of Gordonvale

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Mary Browne, of Forster make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a TAFE teacher, in the postcode of 2428.

As a TAFE teacher, I have seen lives changed by second chance education, by the learning of new job related skills and by education which offers opportunities for employment, promotion and self actualisation. All of the above is what TAFE offers on a daily basis.

Skills for work today can be best delivered by a large public provider to ensure equality of access to all. In regional Australia it is often only TAFE which offers the skills which lead to employment and further training. I have had students placed with local employers and students who have moved into larger regional areas and cities who have gained employment as a direct result of their TAFE training. Unless TAFE is funded to allow equality of access for regional Australians, unemployment, poverty and

skills shortages will be reflected in a disenfranchised regional population.

I could tell many stories of how TAFE has given people a second chance. Women in particular consistently use TAFE as a means of retraining. Quite often child rearing and family commitments have kept regional Australian women from continuing employment. When ready to return to work, this group often retrains at TAFE before seeking new employment opportunities. TAFE provides a skilled workforce and a capable, confident cohort ready to return to a successful working career.

People who wish to train in the VET area flock to regional TAFE campuses. In my teaching area the large majority of these are women seeking a return to work pathway as their family commitments lessen. TAFE as the public provider, is the affordable choice for women whose education is often a low priority when it comes to family budgets. Without TAFE training this group of students would not reskill and would not be able to contribute actively to a thriving Australian economy.

As a TAFE teacher I am very aware of the budget cuts affecting delivery of skills training and vocational education in the regions. We have been asked to do more with less for the last 15 years in TAFE. Only the goodwill and numerous unpaid hours of both full time and part time teaching staff in TAFE have ensured the viability of this organisation. This year we are at crisis point with massive savings being required in education in NSW. Class hours are once again reduced, part time/casual teachers' hours diminished (70% of the teaching in TAFE in NSW is delivered by casual staff) while at the same time, compliance requirements for RTOs have been ramped up to a degree which is taxing staff far above the outcomes gained.

Class hours have been reduced, some classes disbanded completely and many courses only provided through fee for services delivery. This limits the opportunities available to students who cannot afford to buy education. This has caused hardship for students, stress for teachers who work hours way above those they are paid for and dubious learning outcomes in a system which is continually squeezed to do more for less.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because without TAFE regional Australians will have limited access to skills and training for work, TAFE teaching staff will suffer in conditions which make it impossible to provide the education and service which regional Australians deserve and because we should be celebrating what TAFE achieves and supporting TAFE to continue to provide high quality education and training to all Australians - and in regional Australian with its limited options in particular.

Submitted by

Mary Browne of Forster

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Jacqueline Barnes, of Oakey make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a admin, in the postcode of 4401.

I worked in admin before I had children (no opportunity for maternity leave back then) and was a stay at home mum. When all of my children started at school I felt I needed to have the knowledge to help my children with school work, including computers. I enrolled with TAVE in Clermont and what started with an introduction to computers ending in up with me continuing on to complete certificates in business administration. This ultimately led to my gaining the skills required to gain employment in the State Public Service and now the Commonwealth Public Service. Without the support and availability of the TAFE campus in Clermont I would never have gained these skills or the positions I have held.

I never thought I would or could gain the skills I have. Adult education seemed like

something that 'other' people did. The staff at TAFE were so approachable and helpful that I was very comfortable in my pursuit of knowledge and gaining new, updated skills. When I finished work before children computers were relatively new. Now noone batters an eyelid at the thought of turning one on. A lot of that is due to the readily available TAFE.

TAFE took me from the days of manual bookkeeping before I had children to the new method of computer age bookkeeping.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means that I feel less inclined to update and improve my skills. Not only do I have to travel to TAFE the cost of courses has skyrocketed. There is also the added cost of fuel to get there and back. This all weighs into the equation - time plus cost.

I recently saw an advertisement for a diploma in OH&S in three days - not possible to be fully educated in such an important subject in such a short period!

Too expensive for me.

Too little on offer and too expensive.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is an important part of our society. Education is the key to everything. Make it too hard to access and too expensive and people will just not make the effort.

Submitted by

Jacqueline Barnes of Oakey

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Jacqueline Schneider, of Annerley make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a editor, in the postcode of 4103.

TAFE was an essential part of my vocational training. First I did a Certificate in graphic design at the then Sydney TAFE in Ultimo and then later I did a Diploma of Editing at Southbank TAFE in Brisbane. Personally I think TAFE courses have always been great because they are really industry based and the teachers mostly come from within the industry. They teach practical skills that can be used straight away in the workforce.

Many trades and professions are not suitable for university study. They are best taught in a more practical way, such as graphic design, photography, anything to do with publishing and printing, and this is what TAFE offers. It is a more affordable, more practical alternative to university study. Also the building trades should be taught by those from within the industry but in a regulated environment, which is what TAFE

offers.

The only place where I was able to study editing without having to do a university degree first was at TAFE. This meant that I was trained and ready to enter the workforce after 18 months. I did this after returning to the workforce after being a full time mother. It gave me a lot of confidence and I was ready to hit the ground running. The only other course was a post graduate course and as I don't have an undergraduate degree I would have had to do that first and it would have taken years.

I know many people who live in regional areas and TAFE is a great option for them. It is also an employer and an important part of the life of regional towns.

Yes, the lack of regulation in privately run RTOs and colleges is concerning. They are only interested in taking the money off students and I believe standards are slipping.

The whole campus of Southbank TAFE in Brisbane was sold off. Many courses were cut. Why does everything have to be a money-making exercise?

I think we need TAFE colleges run by the state as a part of the education system.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE colleges are a vital element in the overall education sector.

Submitted by

Jacqueline Schneider of Annerley

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Jim Walter, of tathra make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a QA Inspector, in the postcode of 2550.

tafe put me through an apprenticeship in bridge building and then I went on and did some other courses, Overseers, explosives, scaffolding, cert 4 trainer, local gov certificate 3. and all these have helped me get further ahead with my career.

there are skills that need to be acquired for advancement in careers and I feel only tafe can give you these as I have done training with other providers and I always come away feeling short changed.

working in local gov there is always some sort of requirement either voluntary or required for your job and tafe can supply resources that you can't get anywhere else

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...less travel and being able to stay at home with family

yes

less classes and numbers for existing classes

there are a lot of teachers not getting work like they used to

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because in our area it is the difference between a decent job and an unskilled job

Submitted by

Jim Walter of tathra

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Graeme SMART, of WERRIBEE make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Service Delivery Manager, in the postcode of 3030.

TAFE introduced me to computing while I worked as a public servant. From there I made computing my career. Later, I taught computing to others at TAFE while working in the private sector. My daughter studied at TAFE and made her career in hospitality.

My wife was a head of department at TAFE.

My family have thrived through the advantage that TAFE has brought. Practical experience and interaction. Recognised and immediately useful skills. The opportunity to pass skills and knowledge on to others.

The traditional university environment is a critical part of our society. TAFE compliments this and together they provide balanced opportunities for personal and

community development.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means access and opportunity and the chance to live and grow within your local community.

In the last few years, the emphasis on numbers rather than quality out comes has caused a dramatic decline in education generally. Poorly regulated private colleges only amplify this and are destroying Australia's education reputation.

The range of course TAFE offered provided avenues of endeavour for all Australian wishing to better themselves. Recent cutbacks have forced TAFE to focus only on what they think industry wants today. ...very short sighted and not fair to Australians wanting a broader experience.

In my view, the latest cuts are short sighted and ideologically driven. Accepting that this is true, they still don't make any sense unless the aim is to bring working Australia to it's knees. Where do these people think the next generation of active consumers are going to come from?

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because accessible skills training is fundamental to any advanced, modern society. Deskilling Australia is un-Australian.

Submitted by

Graeme SMART of WERRIBEE

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, murray green, of Speers point make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a engineer, in the postcode of 2284.

TAFE has given myself the following education levels. Fitting and turning certificate, Plant mechanic certificate, Hydraulics and, phnuematics certificate, Diesel mechanics certificate Electrical engineering certificate, Marine engineering certificate, Higher marine engineering certificate, Associate diploma in Marin engineering.

I have used the above qualifications in the Coal minning indusrty, Shipping industry [Chief engineer offshore oil and gas] NSW health industry [chief engineer hospital], State translt [operations manager sydney ferris, operations manager newcastle buses]. Shipping indusrty[chief engineer svitzer australasia.]

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

NA

Yes an exodus of highly trained and skilled engineers leaving the TAFE system and returning to industry.

By operating the system like a business whereby if the student numbers are not available the courses and structures are deleted from the TAFE

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE courses and certification provide the back bone of our mining transport health manufacturing and building industries. we are a world leader in technology and economic structure. Our TAFE and university colleges have provided this structure. Improve the system so that everyone has an opportunity to do what I have done. I am a very lucky person thanks to TAFE and its teachers.

Submitted by

murray green of Speers point

Saturday 13th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Christine Becroft, of Wingham make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a counsellor, in the postcode of 2429.

I am currently completing a certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drugs with OTEN, and this may get me a job as a counsellor in the local health service. I have applied for many roles, but at my age, even with a degree in social science, it is difficult to find paid employment in a regional area. So I decided to add more specialised training to my degree and fifteen years of experience in welfare work and have TAFE help me into my new job. My son also did a TAFE course in Horticulture when he left school and that has had him in paid employment for the last eighteen years.

In my family and in my work I have referred many people to TAFE to get at least some basic vocational skills, that lead to paid employment. It is very difficult to find work in regional areas and a TAFE course is a good way to get employed.

I am currently hoping my TAFE course will give me that extra bit of specialist knowledge that will get me employed again after nearly eighteen months looking for work, and studying for the past six months.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means for me, I am studying through OTEN, but when my son needed to get a qualification he was seventeen and had no transport and the only way he could get qualified was for me to catch the bus, and loan him my car so he could get to the local TAFE. I shudder to think what may have happened to him if he was not able to get that start at TAFE.

Free TAFE courses being offered to people in NSW who are unemployed means the difference between getting vocational training that is recognised by all employers and getting paid work or being unemployed and having to move away from home, trying to find accommodation and trying to get private training that is unaffordable and work that may barely cover a young person's rent in a city, where there are more training options.

It is now much harder for young people to get into courses, due to reduced teaching staff and less courses available locally. The nearest alternative is an hour's drive to the Port Macquarie TAFE or a half hour's drive to the Tuncurry TAFE or two hours to Newcastle. None of which are good options for young people who need training to get work and to be able to continue to live at home.

Reduced teaching staff, course and increased fees all contribute to less young people being able to access suitable vocational training near to home.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it helps us all to get trained locally and to stay in paid employment. This reduces reliance on Centrelink benefits and is good for the economy, people's self-esteem and families.

Submitted by

Christine Becroft of Wingham

Saturday 13th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Penelope Joy, of Cooma make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 45 years old and work as a community care worker, in the postcode of 2630.

I have attended both tafe and university myself, but I currently support a couple of people with a disability as they complete TAFE courses. This is incredibly important to increase their skill set and gain employment. This is even more important in these cases as we live in a rural area and there are no opportunities for vocational training outside of TAFE.

TAFE is accessible education. Many people cannot go to university for a variety of reasons. Also, the vocational emphasis of TAFE is important in order to give people the chance to gain skills and therefore meaningful employment.

TAFE has helped me gain qualifications for employment, and also contributes to

people I now work with do the same. In our town, TAFE is really the only way to get education after school. It also assists people with a disability to gain skills in a supportive environment that enable them to gain meaningful work, instead of being on a pension.

Not living in a big town, being able to go to TAFE means being able to gain skills without having to relocate. For many people relocation for education is simply not possible. TAFE is the only way to gain tertiary education in my region.

I have not personally seen this as there are no private colleges in my area. However, I have seen the influx of advertisements for these colleges online. I looked in studying online with some but found them to be very expensive, and they didn't seem to provide the support that TAFE offers.

The amount of teachers has decreased dramatically over the last few years. There are also fewer courses available.

There is very little on offer in our town. Our TAFE is small, and has become smaller over time. I am worried that one day it will not exist.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE is often the only option for further education in a rural area. In addition to what education and work opportunities TAFE study has given me personally, I continue to work with students at TAFE with a disability, providing them with support as they complete courses. This is SO important to them, to be able to learn skills so they can work and be independent, not rely solely on pensions. It also gives them a major sense of being part of society, and they are proud to know that with TAFE they can contribute to the diversity of the workforce.

Submitted by

Penelope Joy of Cooma

Saturday 13th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Sharyn Roche , of Mays Hill make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a child protection caseworker, in the postcode of 2150.

As a single mother that left school prior to completing Yr 10 and I was behind the 8 ball in regards to employment opportunities. I enrolled in a Community Services Diploma part time with my local TAFE. It took me 5 yrs to complete (and 2 States). Since completing the diploma I have contributed some 15yrs back to the Community and also went on to gain a Degree level qualification.

Without TAFE I would never have been able to afford (financially or time wise) to gain the same qualifications at the time via the University system.

Flexible delivery of learning at TAFE ensures that those that are not suited, for whatever reason, to the mainstream education entry points are not left in the cold.

Incremental qualification and entry to professional fields is a very good way to ensure people are not 'scared' away before even determining their capacity to contribute to a workforce.

The flexible delivery of formalised work focussed learning at TAFE allowed me, as a single mum, to take an opportunity to qualify and re-enter the work force after having children. My work force entry, after gaining TAFE qualification, was at a level that provided a decent living wage. Had I not been able to get a qualification I'd have most likely remained on a Single Parent's Benifit as a financial necessity.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because I'd like to think that all Australians will have accessible opportunities to better themselves and contribute to an knowledgable, flexible workforce.

I also think that this country deserves to have a 'home trained' worker base that has opportunities to upgrade skills as required without having to outlay enormous amounts of up front fees.

Submitted by

Sharyn Roche of Mays Hill

Saturday 13th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Merril Ahern, of Underwood make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 4107.

I have been teaching in TAFE since 2004. I feel that TAFE has made major differences to my student's lives and have testimonials to support this statement.

Not only does TAFE develop skills, it is more than just a training organisation - it's an educational environment. A student learns the theory, applies it to a skills platform which through practice becomes knowledge to be used in industry. Any one can learn a task but it takes more than that to understand the higher level of evaluation through analysing the end result of the task and make adjustments.

An example of how TAFE has improved the learning outcomes for a student was demonstrated by staff through their communication, flexibility and interpersonal skills

combined with exceptional learning outcome knowledge. Recently, I negotiated an outcome for a student who contacted me regarding the continuation of her studies. She is a mature age student whose husband recently lost his job due to the changing economic climate and her two school-age children were consequently unable to attend after-school care and there was the additional cost of petrol to drive the considerable distance to study. She had to take on a full time hospitality position to support the family, which hindered her studies. I formulated a conference style conversation and I suggested an outcome that suited the learner. The alternative was to study 2 units online, apply for recognised prior learning for some units as she was already utilizing the skills and knowledge in her employment position, and come to the college one or two days to help maintain her motivation and independence. It was even more successful when she advised that her mother then offered to have her children after school for the two days to allow her to come to college to study.

No I live in the city but due to the changing face of TAFE, courses that were once offered are now deleted due to budget considerations and marketing strategies. TAFE has a very poor method of marketing their options to the wider community as we are constrained by the fact that "we cannot be seen to be in competition with the community". Are private RTO's the community? I would suggest yes.

I liaise with industry (largest Hotel in Australia) and they have no confidence in qualifications due to the fact that individuals are not coming to them with Diplomas etc from private RTO's and cannot do the job. TAFE is seen as a reliable source of potential workers as they must learn the craft and apply it in industry as the study.

1. LVT's are being made redundant due to their pay scale.
2. Teachers with educational qualifications are seen as too expensive.
3. Casual staff employed through private RTO's - paid a pittance all to reduce the staff

costs.

4. Campus closures

5. Student results such as NAT being frowned upon due to funding.

It is trying to dumb down TAFE. Once we were teachers now I urge you to check the links to see how to get a job in TAFE - go to see how you can become a "trainer" in TAFE.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we are being squeezed out of existence. The funding to schools is increasing and they are setting up facilities on their campuses that provide VET to year 10-12 students. Where does TAFE sit between school & University?

Submitted by

Merril Ahern of Underwood

Saturday 13th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Patricia Lee, of East Kangaloon make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2576.

I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Dip Ed in 1980, however from the time I was 16 I have attended TAFE Art and Ceramics classes. These classes have supported me in a life long interest in Art and Ceramics encouraging me to experiment with techniques like printmaking, lino cuts and more recently sculpture and pottery. When I was bringing up my children and not working, TAFE gave me adult company, extending my social network which was isolated due to living in the country and not working. Going to Ceramics Classes in the last few years at Moss Vale TAFE has been the highlight of my week. I have sold my art at Markets and entered competitions. I have an illustrated novel published. TAFE has given me friends, contacts, wonderful and important practical skills and a break from teaching that was important for my mental health. Every week in the Ceramics room I have marvelled at the exquisite,

bold, unique and experimental work that was produced by the students and teachers. TAFE Ceramics has a fine and long reputation as a springboard for very impressive ceramic works.

So it was when the Liberal State Government axed the entire Ceramics Course at TAFE and other Arts Courses across the state, I was devastated. Not only for myself and my love of this course but for the other brilliant people, particularly for the teachers whose skills are quite frankly irreplaceable, who would miss out on their livelihood and finishing their courses.

Wollongong TAFE offered me a place in a course in Ceramics. The cost had gone up by 1,000 % to \$6,000 for a part time course that had last time cost me \$600. Needless to say, I could not afford to do such a course so my Certificate 3 in Ceramics remains unfinished. As I already have teaching Qualifications, the Arts course I have done might have led to employment as an Art teacher.

The loss of my TAFE Course has been a depressive era in my life.

TAFE is very important especially in teaching practical skills. I researched the ARTs industry which includes film making, software as well as traditional painting, pottery and photography. Statistics are available online but to sum up, this Industry generates more money than all Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing combined for the Australian economy.

Why destroy and tamper with a Tertiary Education Sector that is essential to upskill young, middle aged and older Australians?

In the country, TAFE is the only place to get a Tertiary Education therefore, the country suffers more in terms of the impact of reduction of their TAFE services than do those in the City who have access to other forms of Tertiary Education.

I consider the recent cuts to TAFE to be short-sighted, backward and destructive verging on cultural vandalism. We have spent decades in Australia establishing ourselves as a culturally aware, clever and innovative nation only to have the source of

much of this talent cut off in this myopic manner.

My daughter was struggling at University with a degree in Geoinformatics. She dropped out and did 18 months of a TAFE Computing course instead. After this, she gained employment in a Telecommunications Company and is now working towards managerial level.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means not getting any qualifications. There is no other Tertiary Education offered in this area. As a teacher, TAFE is essential for many students from my school who do not want to go to University. Without TAFE, they remain trapped in unskilled jobs or on a low level of pay and don't progress through to higher levels of employment.

The Budget cuts have affected Moss Vale TAFE a lot and all negatively.

The entire Ceramics Course is gone as well as the ARTs courses.

The only courses available now for art students are at STURT which has fees of over \$500 for short courses. It's too expensive for most people especially for young people. TAFE is a way for the under privileged of our society to improve their circumstances. Altering TAFE, destabilising TAFE, will increase the numbers of people receiving unemployment benefits and harm the economy in many other ways such as our small local economy of artists and craftspeople.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE is too important to tamper with. These kind of short -sighted budget-driven cuts belong in

the early 20th Century not in our modern era.

Submitted by

Patricia Lee of East Kangaloon

Saturday 13th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Anthony Barnes, of Ferntree Gully make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a unemployed, in the postcode of 3156.

Box hill TAFE afforded me the opportunity to do a course in fluid power at the end of my apprenticeship as a fitter and turner in 1980.I went back and did a refresher course in the same subject 2002 when it appeared my position was threatened as a special class C8 fitter.I have more recently been to Swinburne TAFE to study renewable energy.For a period in 2005/6 I was employed as a workplace trainer for STRIVE a PTO (private training organization)unfortunately my health gave way and I have been unemployed since.

As a workplace trainer I was initially dumbfounded as to the lack of understanding of even very basic skills that I took for granted.It made me realize how unskilled a lot employees in these company's were and the negative effect this was having on the

quality of their work. It made me realize the Technical and Trade/TAFE system I had gone through produced far superior tradesmen. John Howard was trying to rush through tick and flick organizations to hurry up skill replenishment with in house instead of TAFE type training which I found inadequate both in time, breadth and supervision.

I was diagnosed with a rare form of thyroid cancer in 2011 for the preceding 16 years I had struggled with endless back pain from an injury I received at work in 1995. By 2005 I was totally dysfunctional with a still unidentified cancer and went on a DSP. Since the cancer was removed the pain in my back has diminished considerably but day to day my health is very precarious. So last year I decided to attempt a TAFE course in renewable energy, I explained my health predicament and that I was sick to death of sitting at home doing not much. I only managed to complete the first term and was hedging my bets about paying the reduced school fees of \$700.00 at the time. Now I'm sure the fees are considerably more this year but I am contemplating going back to finish as I enjoyed learning and contributing some of my experiences to the class.

My fear is the course is no longer available at the local Wantirna campus. That I will receive no credits for work already done and that cost will be prohibitive. I have rung them but no one has replied to my request for info. I will try again tomorrow. I think I was in the TOO hard basket for them to bother.

After leaving my last full time job I was offered a position with a PTO to train unskilled labor at their workplaces, The course material was being constructed on the run and although reasonably in depth about certain aspects of engineering was a long way behind in content compared to a standard Cert IV apprenticeship even at the Cert III they were deemed to have passed at. Not having qualified tradesmen at these workplaces was a recipe for substandard outcomes in my opinion. The PTO still owes me in excess of \$5000.00 but I been to sick to pursue them over it.

Swinburne has closed the Lilydale campus and I know a couple of trainers who have had their work relocated and cut back considerably. Next thing another John Howard type of rapid training will be required to fill all the gaps. Tradesmen like me are being lost to the system and valuable experience has turned into grey nomads, who could be reemployed at local TAFE's and Mens sheds as they travel the country if properly funded.

We can't all be Lawyers and Doctors and someone has to design, build and repair. I went back to TAFE to learn how to utilize electrical skills on a windmill I have been designing. Unfortunately this has stalled and may be now be too prohibitively expensive to complete. The ABC removed the New Inventors to give us more of the same inventions of news, news, news. TAFE's are sending out trainees who can't fit a hacksaw blade in the correct way and are trying to compete with tick and flick organizations who get paid on sign ups and take photos to prove students look like they know. The TAFE I attended had a Renewable Energy course operating inside a campus that was anything but. Two \$28,000 Skystream windmills producing little power shut down due to noise emissions, PV Solar panel banks shadowing each other, Solar hot water systems not connected to showers, multitudes of PC's left on all day and probably night and air conditioning systems so cold I was putting jumpers on on 35 deg days. I was told the whole organization was spending 5,000,000 a year on energy costs. Unfortunately it typifies the she'll be right it aint my problem mate attitude that pervades these institutions. Yes they need to pull their socks up but underfunding them isn't the solution either.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded and managed because Australia's future depends on knowledge. My four daughters may come to rely on this type of training and skills it offers. My experience with PTO's show me the inadequacy of this type of training. The closing of Technical colleges was the beginning

of the rot that now is infiltrating the TAFE system. NOT one employer in my 30 years in the trade trained one apprentice, NOT ONE! In every EBA it was stipulated as desirable but never enforceable. As a consequence the pool of quality tradesmen has diminished to the point of implementing 457 visas. Going back to TAFE in 2011 showed me the poor training has even infiltrated these institutions. Basic skills taught to me at the age of 14/15 at Tech school was evidently missing in 18/20 year olds at TAFE. How much further will they be allowed to languish under the new funding models I hate to think.

Submitted by

Anthony Barnes of Ferntree Gully

Saturday 13th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Maree Jamieson, of Emerton make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Government employee, in the postcode of 2118.

I first commenced TAFE in 1998. I have done a number of courses ranging from statement of attainments to diploma level. I am currently studying at TAFE and intend to continue doing so!

All of the courses I have completed have been to further my work skills and gain better employment

All the courses I have done has been to further educate myself and to gain better employment

I don't live in a rural area. But I believe people living in a rural area should be able to

access public education. TAFE!

I have only ever gone to TAFE and would not recommend anywhere else! Some teaching bodies are not accredited! Some have below standard training!

The budget cuts are affecting all TAFE colleges, either through teacher cuts or course cuts!

Courses are no longer available!

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because good education should be available to every one! Not just the ones that can pay thousands of dollars!

Submitted by

Maree Jamieson of Emerton

Saturday 13th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Anna Martin, of Elizabeth North make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Leisure & Lifestyle Coordinator, in the postcode of 5095.

I am employed today because of the skills, confidence & knowledge that I gained as a mature age student in my late 30's. Prior to this I had no formal skills and poor prospects for the future for myself and my son. Due to my certificates being recognized as being not only competent but valued as they are 'TAFE' certificates has always put me in good stead when interviews.

TAFE is a much needed educational system in our workforce. It affords people the opportunity to continue working whilst studying. The support that it offers exceeds the support that many other RTO's are able to provide.

I am employed today because of the skills, confidence & knowledge that I gained as a

mature age student in my late 30's. Prior to this I had no formal skills and poor prospects for the future for myself and my son. I have been employed in the aged care sector for almost 20 years now and I still continue to study and learn.

Working in the aged care sector gives me great insight into the quality of staff who have gained their 'certificates' in aged care from other RTO's. They have little understanding or knowledge of the aged care sector, are poorly trained and unskilled and rarely last in the industry for any length of time.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦
Working in the aged care sector gives me great insight into the quality of staff who have gained their 'certificates' in aged care from other RTO's. They have little understanding or knowledge of the aged care sector, are poorly trained and unskilled and rarely last in the industry for any length of time. They do not and are unable to provide the services to consumers that is required in the industry as their knowledge, training and skills are not as effective as those who have gained Certificates through TAFE.

Submitted by

Anna Martin of Elizabeth North

Saturday 13th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Roger Cass, of Jarrahdale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a social trainer, in the postcode of 6124.

gained trade certificate as motor mechanic @ TAFE, later in life trained as social trainer @ TAFE----- Son trained as a gas fitter/plumber @ TAFE

No TAFE no tradesmen / women

as @ section2

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE is the only course to take to gain trade certificates

no personal experience

no longer use TAFE services

dont know

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because good skills training is the future of our nation

Submitted by

Roger Cass of Jarrahdale

Saturday 13th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Robert Marazzato, of Reservoir make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a IT Security Specialist, in the postcode of 3073.

TAFE allowed to me to pursue the technical role I now have and enjoy. The TAFE teachers were the best I had in my life. I spent the first 12 years in private schools. The hand-on experience of the TAFE teachers and the real-world content of the courses inspired me to be the best engineer I could be.

I really enjoyed Chemistry/Physics/Mathematics in college, but there were no practical roles for these subjects. Going on to university would have let me into mainly theoretical degrees. TAFE was a much better fit for me as I could mostly DO things. Get a real result from my learning. I did Electronics, which was my passion. I did this too late as most of the Electronics industry in Australia shut down in the 90s. But at least I could move sideways into I.T. Without TAFE I don't believe I would have the

balanced skill set between theory and practice that I use every day.

TAFE also allowed me to advance my certificate at night school. This was absolutely fantastic, as I could continue working and still get a real class learning environment. Via night-school I advanced my Certificate of Technology to an Advanced Diploma, and then finally into a Diploma of Engineering.

N/A

N/A

N/A. I was in TAFE between 1985 - 2000

N/A

TAFE made me the person I am today. My best friends are those I met in at TAFE. They are also the most upstanding people I know. If cutting funds to TAFE means one person misses out, it would be a great loss to our community.

Submitted by

Robert Marazzato of Reservoir

Saturday 13th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Maurice Perry, of Boronia make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a specialist school teacher, in the postcode of 3155.

I have almost 35 years of experience working in secondary and primary settings in both Victoria and London, especially with young people at risk and those exhibiting challenging behaviour.

The TAFE system has often been the only option to entice students to continue their education and so often when secondary schools fail, TAFE succeeds. When we talk about a well balanced and comprehensive education system serving the needs of the greatest possible range of students, that description definitely includes the TAFE sector. At a time when we would have seen great benefits from expanding TAFE we have instead seen cuts.

So many of the students unable to fit into mainstream secondary education that I have worked with, found a place in TAFE. So many of my students who would never have completed tertiary education at a University found a place in TAFE. TAFE courses and staff actually helped to keep young people "off the streets" and out of trouble and provided many students with the first meaningful educational experience in their lifetime.

Many excellent teachers and youth workers who worked with a wide variety of valuable young people are now unemployed and unable to pass on their skills. Nothing has been provided to fill the gap created by the cuts to TAFE.

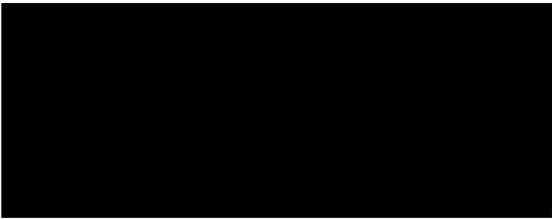
So many of the course options available to my students are now gone and they will drop out of the education system and once again lose hope.

The cuts to TAFE are shortsighted and an attack on students from poorer and less socially mobile sections of society. The way to a first class and internationally recognised education system is by broadening the options offered, not limiting them.

Submitted by

Maurice Perry of Boronia

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, , of The Gap make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Tutor, in the postcode of 4061.

I migrated to Australia with overseas qualifications which was not recognised in Australia. I started my study through Tafe from learning English language to help me speak fluently and write in better grammar, to a completion of advanced diploma level. My Tafe qualifications have helped me to study at university levels and further to post graduate degree. This opportunities would have not been opened for me and others without Tafe. I am currently undertaking more diploma studies at Tafe and will stay with Tafe rather than private institutes.

Tafe provides practical skills and knowledge for people who choose to study up to Diploma or Advanced Diploma levels. Tafe is the best choice for diverse learners and pathways to higher educational levels. Government should commit to help Australian gain qualifications and practical skills to increase quality employment and open

opportunities to enter workforce.

Tafe help people who want to start a new career or change jobs. School leavers and stay home parents who decide to start employment.

Tafe offers recognition of prior learning to experienced workers to gain qualifications.

Tafe locations are reachable by public transports which help students to attend classes. Yes, I am very concerned with closures of Tafe Red Hill as it means more cost and time to travel for myself and my children. I am a single parent with sole custody and three teenage children. It has been very helpful having Tafe in our area as it means less traveling time and worry of my children's safety to travel longer distance and may have to walk in a city area when there have been many missing people on news lately. Less police and security in Queensland adds to people's anxiety too.

Yes there are some. I inquired information for diploma in TAE and received a reply over 4 weeks upon my initial contact. The RTO only offers RPL and the contact person could not be reached.

There has been less support from teachers and harder to contact them due to numbers of students they look after. It took much longer than usual to mark our assignments which causes delays and feeling demotivated.

All of those above.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because course fees can be unaffordable for struggling families and youths, which will be impossible to increase income and achieve higher education or gain employment. Australian people

deserve to receive education support from the government. Australia has been known as a country with opportunities for a better future because there are pathways through Tafe to university study and workforce. Please support Tafe to grow and have the campuses open with more facilities and courses available. Example of barrier is I have been wanting to study hospitality but there isn't any in my area and no evening classes available. Thank you.

Submitted by

of The Gap

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, John Bellingham, of Emu Plains make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Electronics Tech, in the postcode of 2750.

I went to TAFE (or Technical college back then) as part of my apprenticeship to become an electrician. I came second in the state, and went on to complete the Electronics and Communications certificate course (also at Technical college). I do not know where I would be today without the Tech college facilities and the dedicated teachers who instructed me.

Not everyone is suited to University life, not everyone has the financial backing to complete a University course. Where else will people learn a trade and become useful members of society without TAFE colleges?

We already have a trades-person shortage in Australia; diminishing TAFE, or getting rid of TAFE entirely is a crazy, short sighted idea!!

My son, like a lot of people, does not have the temperament for "book study" but give him a box of tools and some materials, and stand back, he is in his element. Thanks to TAFE he has his qualifications and is making his way in the world. He has a job, he rents his own house, he has a partner, that he has had a baby with.

I live a major city suburb where there is a University, so this question does not apply to me. However my brother lives in a regional area and both his sons have had to move a long way away from home, one for work the other to go to university. So I understand how critical a TAFE college could be to a regional town.

No experience with this area.

No experience with this area.

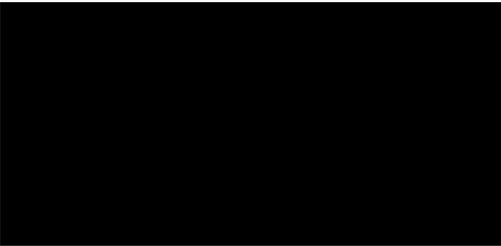
I am unable to comment

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because Australia needs more places where people can receive trade a certificate qualifications, not less!

Submitted by

John Bellingham of Emu Plains

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Charmaine Robertson, of Panania make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a local government officer, in the postcode of 2213.

TAFE gave me direction, the momentum to go forward and broaden my horizons

lots of people have low self belief and accomplishing any trade or other qualification lifts them, makes them feel that all Australians can achieve, no matter what their race or status.

Young people often fall behind in school and TAFE gives them a second chance to educate themselves outside the classroom setting, gives them the outdoor life in some cases and lots of people thrive on the outdoor life.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦without education you are not functioning to your highest potential and TAFE gives you that learning, quality learning for all Australians

Submitted by

charmaine robertson of panania

Sunday 14th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, John Poulson, of Woodcroft make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Substation Maintenance Officer, in the postcode of 5162.

In my day TAFE was called a technical college where people went to do trade and post trade studies.

That is how I attained my trade studies as an electrical fitter for the power industry for South Australia and are still there for almost 38 years.

.

TAFE is a chance for someone to learn and be educated either in preparation for doing trade studies or for doing the trade studies itself.

It gives someone a chance who may not be able to afford to go to university a chance

to get an apprenticeship which gives them a job with pay and a chance to learn a skill and attain the back up knowledge needed by TAFE in order to complete the apprenticeship.

I lived in the outer suburbs where my Technical College or TAFE as it is known today received huge cuts to the point where a lot of trades are no longer taught there. This now means locals in outer areas have to travel 30 to 100 kilometres to get to the next nearest TAFE. For some people this travel is not possible and stops them from getting a chance of this TAFE education.

The standard of education in TAFE has dropped because in 38 years I have spent 28 years of that as a tradesman teaching apprentices on the job training with TAFE being their classroom training.

In that time I had to increase what I had to teach in different areas in order to make up short fall in training that the apprentice missed at TAFE. If the tradesman is willing to do this then you will make a tradesman out of an apprentice with some reasonable skills. If the tradesman doesn't have the time then the apprentice suffers and then the apprentice ends up being a low quality tradesman or even drops out because they can't keep up.

As mentioned above, apprentices training gaps are huge, this means tradespeople are bridging that gap with more on the job training needed in order to make a competent tradesperson out of an apprentice. This means the additional on job training increases costs to the employer as it takes longer to do jobs making work more expensive to the customer. This then makes us as a nation less competitive overall.

Skilled people are still needed in the work force and cutting costs to TAFE decreases the chance of producing quality skilled and competent tradespeople.

Nowadays some of the tradespeople that are emerging, are NOT confident to continue and in some cases drop out and lose their way meaning these people waste this opportunity due to lack of confidence because of lower quality training at TAFE due to cost cuts.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because skilled people are still needed in the community. Trades are still much needed, without them you wouldn't have builders, carpenters, mechanics, plumbers, electricians (my trade) or even hairdressers, basically the list is endless we still need these skilled people.
PLEASE DO NOT CUT FUNDS TO TAFE.

Submitted by

John Poulson of Woodcroft

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, trevor bennett, of holt make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a security/officer, in the postcode of 2615.

I went to Ried Tafe. I did a 2 year electrical lineman course. I was a lineman for 17 years.

Helps people any age get into a trade and helps with basic skills for every day life

I worked on a station before I came to Canberra Tafe helped me get a job at ACTEW.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...better chances of getting a good job and helping you to be able to compete.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€‘every person deserves a decent chance to gain access to satisfying and gainful employment.

Submitted by

trevor bennett of holt

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Robert Hanna, of Casino make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I live in Richmond Valley council area of NSW. This region is one of the most socially disadvantaged in Australia. Health department and ABS figures show this area has some of the highest rates of psychological distress, premature mortality, cancers, suicide and self inflicted injuries, and crime. This area has very low income and work participation rates.

We have low school retention rates and improved education has been shown to be very important in addressing social disadvantage. TAFE in our area should be an important priority but instead of expanding the facility's services, it is being downgraded.

Public transport to enable people of this area to attend other facilities in the wider area is almost non-existent so residents, particularly the young, are excluded from further

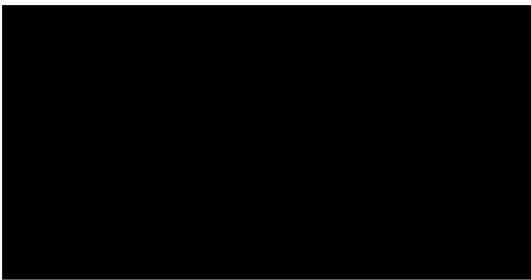
education.

In addition, internet connections are poor or unavailable in areas within this region and the NBN roll-out is not a priority here so it is not viable to use this tool to access further education.

Submitted by

Robert Hanna of Casino

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, John Myers, of Kempsey make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Tafe teacher, in the postcode of 2440.

I have been a Tafe teacher for 30 years and as a student I completed a trade and then further qualifications at Tafe leading to teaching my trade. I only have 3 years before retiring so I am not too worried about myself with the decline in Tafe funding but I am very concerned about the future of Tafe and the effect this will have on students and the Australian economy. I have experienced first hand the effects of cuts to Tafe and the continued pressure to downgrade the quality of training. If the current trends in Tafe continue I am very concerned for Tafe's future and if Tafe is destroyed as has happened in Victoria. The Australian economy will be severely affected when skilled highly trained workers are not available.

Tafe if funded properly provides quality training and not just narrow skill sets but the

ability adapt to an ever changing work place.

Tafe has given my wife an education she did not receive at school due to missed basics in her early school years. She completed her year 10 school certificate equivalent at Tafe which greatly enhanced her confidence and employment opportunities.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means local young people are able to receive training that leads to employment and also gives more mature people the chance to retrain or update skills as technology changes.

I have had students who have gained an Apprenticeship after completing training with a private training provider and have seen that the skills they have been credited with do not always meet the standards expected by employers and Tafe. This causes great concern as Tafe is obliged to accept these qualifications previously gained but then have to provide gap training with no recognition of this with no extra funding.

In my section evening courses have been cut and only offered on a commercial fee basis which is far to expensive for the students we normally have. This severely affects their ability to gain further skills and higher paid jobs, or a job.

Pressure is being applied to have more students in a class and to deliver the course with reduced hours. This greatly affects the quality of the course and causes great stress to teachers.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the Australian economy is dependent on a highly skilled and adaptable work force which Tafe if properly funded can supply. I am extremely concerned that if Tafe is destroyed

as has happened in Victoria, we will not be able to re build a great system and the full effects will be felt in the next 5 to 10 years. In my Tafe campus we have just lost 2 of our 6 full time teachers due to NSW state government cuts. With one of these teachers not applying for her position due to the way Tafe has been cut.

Submitted by

John Myers of Kempsey

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Rachel Tropea, of Brunswick East make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Project Manager, in the postcode of 3057.

I have attended two TAFE courses, one at RMIT in dressmaking and a business plan writing course at Kangan. Both of these courses have been instrumental in launching my career, and have given me skills I have used throughout my work life since.

During the 1991 recession I was unemployed and decided to do a TAFE course. I was attracted to the vocational and practical emphasis, and was able to afford the fees. I found the courses excellent. After TAFE I got paid work in the theatre as a costume designer, and launched my own fashion label under the guidance of a mentor under the TAFE system. A few years later I opened a shop in the city with 3 other designers. Our label launched Fashion week one year, and was featured throughout the media. I have also worked at Mariana Hardwick Bridal Emporium, all jobs I loved and made a

living from, and none of which would have been possible without TAFE.

I think TAFE gives people practical and vocational training with skilled people from the relevant field. It is the closest you get to on the job training without being on the job. TAFE can give people the skills they need to participate actively in the workforce. In addition, courses are affordable and can be completed in a relatively short time.

If I had not been given the opportunity to go to TAFE I would not be where I am today. It lifted me out of unemployment and gave me the skills and confidence to build a career and a great life. I would not be where I am today - in a loving relationship with a beautiful child and a successful career as a Project Manager on a national project.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it gives people the opportunity to contribute their talents and new ideas to society and it a valuable asset to this country.

Submitted by

Rachel Tropea of Brunswick East

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Anthony France, of Highfields make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2289.

I have worked as a teacher with many young people at TAFE and schools who have struggled in other educational settings. They have found TAFE flexible and supportive to their needs - which are often complex.

It enables people of various ages and backgrounds who have not previously gained educational qualifications - to do so. This educational success is generally the catalyst to propel people onto meaningful careers and/or further education. Often transforming people with low levels of self belief into high functioning members of the workforce and community.

As a teacher I have many hundreds (probably thousands) of examples of young people

who have finished school without gaining a qualification. TAFE has provided a second chance pathway for these young people to establish themselves in further education and careers. Also older people changing careers for reasons such as injury, previously having raised families or simply wanting to make more of their lives, Aboriginal young people, people with a disability, people coming out of prison - have all gone on to better employment and career pathways as a result of gaining a TAFE education.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means young people not succeeding at school, and people challenged with other adversity will have poorer educational options if TAFE services are cut.

I have seen several organisations set up to deliver the same qualifications as TAFE in the health and community services sector as well as career skills education courses (eg year 10 and year 12 equivalents). Most of these organisations have struggled to provide education that meets the needs of students and in most cases these organisations have stopped delivering courses after a few years.

I have seen arts and media courses cut.

I also believe that there is a significant reduction in the educational delivery opportunities for at risk young people - with a cut back to access to education type course.

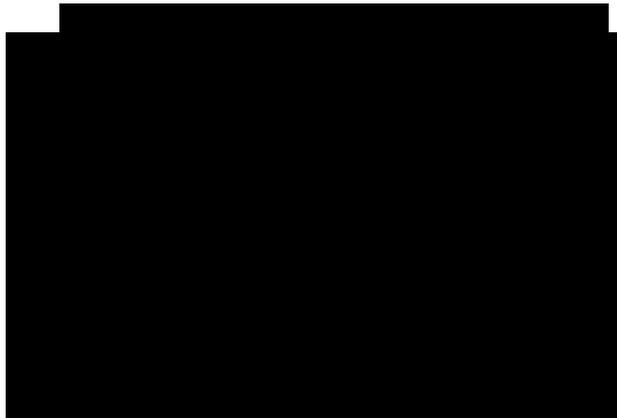
Uncertain futures for staff and students has created a stressful environment that makes education delivery more challenging particularly when there is reduced support services for students with specific needs (eg disability, mental health issues etc). These students need the higher support levels to maximise their future career options.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is a second chance education for many people - often the most vulnerable members of the community, young people, older people changing or wanting a better career, people with a disability - who are striving to support themselves - and not be a drain on social support services (from welfare payments to prison).

Submitted by

Anthony France of Highfields

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Allan Daniel, of SPRINGWOOD make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am glad that Federal politicians are finally taking a serious look at the vital role that vocational education plays in the economic and social development of our nation. To put it simply can you name any organisation in Australia that does a better job with the resources made available to it than TAFE? TAFE provides courses for those learning how to read up to students at tertiary level. It has a tremendous record in preparing people with disabilities for the workforce. While providing that vocational training for so many of our young people TAFE also provides a second chance for education to many others. TAFE services remote areas and is often the only training available in regional centres.

Increasing technological and social change requires a highly trained workforce. We need quality training to compete internationally. We also need it to service all of our increasingly complex internal markets. Childcare workers, aged care workers, library officers and welfare officers all need quality training just as much as IT consultants and

vehicle mechanics. The race to the bottom as quality TAFE providers are forced to cut corners to compete in an artificial marketplace will ultimately damage Australia.

TAFE must compete in most fields with private providers. I say "most fields" as the private providers will only go where profit can be made. A private provider usually does not provide the support to students that the TAFE system does, no disability support, no counselling " not even a library. If you can't use a library you can't fully function in an information economy. Information literacy is the core of both education and training.

There are several issues I would ask the enquiry to consider:

1. Teacher quality

Across the nation the real wages of FT and PT staff are being driven down. It has now reached the point where someone working in a trade could earn as much money doing some casual work as they could teaching. No need to pay for a teaching qualification, no need to spend at least an hour preparing and marking for each hour of teaching, no need to comply with onerous auditing requirements. Do your job and walk away at the end of your shift.

I know of private providers who pay qualified trainers less than a 20 year old can earn working as a casual in my industry. How are we to attract quality staff in this environment?

2. The role of ASQA

This organisation does not seem to understand training or education. It seems to interpret "quality" as being a layer of bureaucracy that looks at process and record keeping " not performance. As a section manager I find the workload actually interferes with educational delivery.

Can ASQA demonstrate any unequivocal improvement in training quality due to its activities?

Note that the ASQA auditing regime only needs to exist because of the need to check on the activities of private providers. Most state based TAFE organisations already

have rigorous audit systems.

3. The need for lower level courses

As state governments withdraw funding and we move to a fully contestable model entry level courses are suffering. These courses are needed to provide the underpinning knowledge for higher courses and to build the confidence of new learners.

Government will attempt to pick areas of skill shortage and fund these courses. Frankly their record at doing this is poor and it will rapidly lead to an oversupply as students flock to the funded courses.

4. The need for mandated hours

In a contestable market a race to the bottom will develop as all providers in the VET sector attempt to provide the cheapest and quickest courses. We already see private providers delivering diplomas in workplace health and safety over five days. A course that is nominally 330 hours. Would you place the safety of your staff in the hands of someone whose training was about 15% as long as the experts recommend?

A simple solution would seem to be that training providers are obligated to teach to the hours recommended for the course. This is not anticompetitive. Providers would compete on quality and delivery method. Students would not be being ripped off and the Australian public could be more assured of the quality of graduates.

5. Grading of courses.

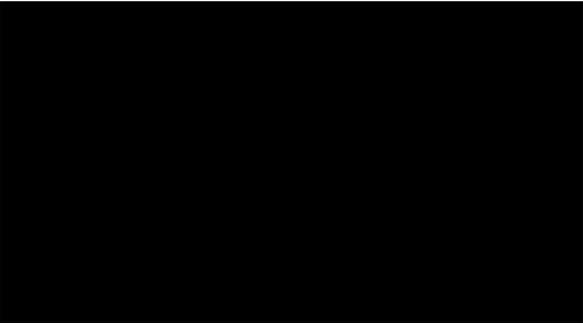
Fewer and fewer units and courses are being graded. This militates against excellence and encourages dumbing down. Ask industry what they want. Ask students.

I realise how many submissions you will receive. Thank you for considering them all and good luck with your enquiry. Help Australia to avoid a long slow decline. Don't let the nation end up as a third rate international player and a sub-standard internal service provider by further destroying what was the world's best VET system.

Submitted by

Allan Daniel of SPRINGWOOD

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Jenny tba, of NEUTRAL BAY make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a clerk, in the postcode of 2089.

I was a migrant with Associate CPA status some 30 years ago but not finding employment and almost heading towards some black home, I discovered TAFE courses and have obtained Dip in Business, Dip in OHS, and jobs, but not unemployed for substantial periods.. Once again I find myself unemployed due to office closure (and quite aging, but with debts caused by \$multimillion fraudsters that the government wont nab). I would have hoped to attend TAFE to launch myself into another job (and pay taxes and stay off Federal handouts and ill health=upholding the federal budget).

Work strategies are evolving consistently. Without having to make 4year degree course commitments, we can learn a little and find jobs for TODAY or CURRENT workforce.

Having learnt, shared experiences, seemingly good applicant - projected me to employable status several times in my life (1990, 2000, 2006).

no

dont know

dont know

dont know

I would have to soon launch myself into TAFE SKILLS studies soon to survive, as I wont qualify for handouts yet have huge mortgage to pay off.

Submitted by

Jenny tba of NEUTRAL BAY

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Mary Moss, of Warrumbungle make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a TAFE teacher, in the postcode of 2357.

I have been a teacher for 30 years and have taught across all ages “infants, primary, secondary and TAFE. I have had experience both in private and public education. I am currently teaching Information Technology and Business at TAFE NSW New England Institute at the Coonabarabran Campus.

Throughout my career in advising high school students and adults regarding their career and study options, I have seen the wonderful benefit that TAFE has and the tremendous impact that study at TAFE has had on the lives of so many of the successful students I have witnessed change their lives around.

I have personally found extreme fulfilment and satisfaction at seeing hopelessness, poverty and despair change to fulfilment, prosperity and confidence.

I know, from personal experience, that investing more in our public schools and TAFE

campuses, makes a real difference for our children and young people, and hence to our nation as a whole.

TAFE has forged an excellent reputation based on over 100 years of supplying quality education to generations of Australians. It has done this by affording education that:

1. Endows workers with a vast range of career options
2. Presents courses to recognised and regulated standards with nationally accredited qualifications.
3. Trains using highly qualified, vocationally experienced and dedicated teachers
4. Ensures all employees are Identity residency proofed, Australian security screened and Criminal and violence checked
5. Guarantees all teachers have passed the Commission for Children and Young People Act Requirements and have completed the regulated Child Protection Training
6. Furnishes education in well supplied, well maintained campuses that are continually kept to high OHS standards
7. Imparts education with additional support for Disabled students, Indigenous students and Minority Groups, considering racial, ethnic or ethno-religious differences
8. Caters for students with LOE (Language other than English) and child care considerations
9. Grants Career and Social Counselling and Mental Health Assistance
10. Provides EEO (Equal Employment Opportunities) to thousands of workers across Australia

Each TAFE benefits each community and thus builds an entire nation. TAFE benefits local communities in so many ways:

1. It offers local employment to a vast range of skilled and unskilled workers
2. It enables students to stay at home while continuing their education
3. It provides pathways for students to obtain options for further education

4. It encourages young adults to become independent and self-proficient
5. It affords employable skilled workers for a host of differing careers in our local community such as hair dressers, beauticians, motor mechanics, aged care health workers, child care workers, office workers, retail workers, publican workers, farm hands,
6. It delivers short term OHS training, First Aid, Chemical Handling, Safe-Driver training and a host of other job specific educational requirements.
7. It provides social contact and thus mental health benefits to many disabled and lonely students
8. It benefits the local community in a host of ways besides enabling the town businesses to continue employing local workers, it also supplies a community centre that enables the town residences to meet and celebrate in a neutral venue.

I have time and again seen the wonderful benefit that Business studies and Information Technology at TAFE has had on the lives of so many of my students. One young woman stopped me in the street the other day, she wanted to thank me for changing her life. I had not recognised her till she said her name, I could not believe the change that had occurred.

She had come to my class, as a single mother with three little children, stuck on welfare payments with no skill, ill presented and a face displaying hopelessness and despair. She now stood before me, immaculately presented, professionally deported and articulate. With the security of a permanent job, she said how wonderful it was that she now could pay her bills, plan for the future and give her children a good education. So her TAFE course not only enabled her to get off centrelink payments, it gives her the ability to provide for herself and not only that - it benefits the future generation.

I studied Education in the city and was sent to my first school in a small country town of

Narromine, I met my husband and like so many other teachers and nurses became a farmer's wife. I have taught in country schools and TAFE campuses for the past 30 years. Thus I have seen firsthand the need of good education opportunities in regional areas. We have had to grapple with the problem with educating our own children. We have had to witness our youth move away time and again, in order to get further education. The local TAFE campus is the only post high school education that is available to our young people if they cannot or prefer not to move away.

The local campus has provided ongoing benefits to our local community in so many ways:

1. It offers local employment to a vast range of skilled and unskilled workers
2. It enables students to stay at home while continuing their education
3. It provides pathways for students to obtain options for further education
4. It encourages young adults to become independent and self-proficient
5. It affords employable skilled workers for a host of differing careers in our local community such as hair dressers, beauticians, motor mechanics, aged care health workers, child care workers, office workers, retail workers, publican workers, farm hands,
6. It delivers short term OHS training, First Aid, Chemical Handling, Safe-Driver training and a host of other job specific educational requirements.
7. It provides social contact and thus mental health benefits to many disabled and lonely students
8. It benefits the local community in a host of ways besides enabling the town businesses to continue employing local workers, it also supplies a community centre that enables the town residences to meet and celebrate in a neutral venue.

The plan to replace trained and qualified TAFE teachers with untrained, unqualified and inexperienced "Tutors" can only mean that education will be degraded. How can a "Tutor" possibly teach students at the same capacity as a true qualified, educated and experienced "teacher". These recent new plans to

dismantle TAFE campuses, to break down the teaching profession and to degrade education standards, will result in future generations of young people who are stuck in the welfare cycle – both uneducated and unemployable!

There is nothing more important than the education of our children and young people. They should have first call on your budget rather than be told that giving them a high quality education is something we can't afford. Cutting back on education is not the answer to saving money. It may save money now, but it will reduce our nation to third world standards in the future.

It's time for you to work together with the Federal Government in the interests of our future as a nation. This requires leadership and a greater financial commitment from you in education and our public schools and TAFE institutes.

I know, from personal experience, that investing more in our public schools and TAFE campuses, makes a real difference for our children and young people, our local communities and hence to our nation as a whole.

I have seen a private college in Dubbo specifically that does not produce good employees and which has now proved a bad influence on the education landscape

We have seen a number of local redundancies and job losses, funding cuts to support units such as Disability, Library and Councelling.

Of course the huge student fee increase has had a big impact and we have seen closures of a large number of campuses in our institute

The plan to replace trained and qualified TAFE teachers with untrained, unqualified and inexperienced –Tutors– can only mean that education will be degraded. How can a –Tutor– possibly teach students at the same capacity as a true qualified, educated and experienced –teacher–. These recent new plans to dismantle TAFE campuses, to break down the teaching profession and to degrade

education standards, will result in future generations of young people who are stuck in the welfare cycle – both uneducated and unemployable!

There is nothing more important than the education of our children and young people. They should have first call on your budget rather than be told that giving them a high quality education is something we can't afford. Cutting back on education is not the answer to saving money. It may save money now, but it will reduce our nation to third world standards in the future.

I have been a teacher for 30 years and have taught across all ages – infants, primary, secondary and TAFE. I have had experience both in private and public education. I am currently teaching Information Technology and Business at TAFE NSW New England Institute at the Coonabarabran Campus.

Throughout my career in advising high school students and adults regarding their career and study options, I have seen the wonderful benefit that TAFE has and the tremendous impact that study at TAFE has had on the lives of so many of the successful students I have witnessed change their lives around. I have personally found extreme fulfilment and satisfaction at seeing hopelessness, poverty and despair change to fulfilment, prosperity and confidence.

I have time and again seen the wonderful benefit that Business studies and Information Technology at TAFE has had on the lives of so many of my students. One young woman stopped me in the street the other day, she wanted to thank me for changing her life. I had not recognised her till she said her name, I could not believe the change that had occurred.

She had come to my class, as a single mother with three little children, stuck on welfare payments with no skill, ill presented and a face displaying hopelessness and despair. She now stood before me, immaculately presented, professionally deported and articulate. With the security of a permanent job, she said how wonderful it was

that she now could pay her bills, plan for the future and give her children a good education. So her TAFE course not only enabled her to get off centrelink payments, it gives her the ability to provide for herself and not only that - it benefits the future generation.

I studied Education in the city and was sent to my first school in a small country town of Narromine, I met my husband and like so many other teachers and nurses became a farmer's wife. I have taught in country schools and Tafe campuses for the past 30 years. Thus I have seen firsthand the need of good education opportunities in regional areas. We have had to grapple with the problem with educating our own children. We have had to witness our youth move away time and again, in order to get further education. The local TAFE campus is the only post high school education that is available to our young people if they cannot or prefer not to move away.

TAFE has forged an excellent reputation based on over 100 years of supplying quality education to generations of Australians. It has done this by affording education that:

1. Endows workers with a vast range of career options
2. Presents courses to recognised and regulated standards with nationally accredited qualifications.
3. Trains using highly qualified, vocationally experienced and dedicated teachers
4. Ensures all employees are Identity residency proofed, Australian security screened and Criminal and violence checked
5. Guarantees all teachers have passed the Commission for Children and Young People Act Requirements and have completed the regulated Child Protection Training
6. Furnishes education in well supplied, well maintained campuses that are continually kept to high OHS standards
7. Imparts education with additional support for Disabled students, Indigenous students and Minority Groups, considering racial, ethnic or ethno-religious differences

8. Caters for students with LOE (Language other than English) and child care considerations
9. Grants Career and Social Counselling and Mental Health Assistance
10. Provides EEO (Equal Employment Opportunities) to thousands of workers across Australia

Each TAFE benefits each community and thus builds an entire nation. TAFE benefits local communities in so many ways:

1. It offers local employment to a vast range of skilled and unskilled workers
2. It enables students to stay at home while continuing their education
3. It provides pathways for students to obtain options for further education
4. It encourages young adults to become independent and self-proficient
5. It affords employable skilled workers for a host of differing careers in our local community such as hair dressers, beauticians, motor mechanics, aged care health workers, child care workers, office workers, retail workers, publican workers, farm hands,
6. It delivers short term OHS training, First Aid, Chemical Handling, Safe-Driver training and a host of other job specific educational requirements.
7. It provides social contact and thus mental health benefits to many disabled and lonely students
8. It benefits the local community in a host of ways besides enabling the town businesses to continue employing local workers, it also supplies a community centre that enables the town residences to meet and celebrate in a neutral venue.

The plan to replace trained and qualified TAFE teachers with untrained, unqualified and inexperienced "Tutors" can only mean that education will be degraded. How can a "Tutor" possibly teach students at the same capacity as a true qualified, educated and experienced "teacher". These recent new plans to

dismantle TAFE campuses, to break down the teaching profession and to degrade education standards, will result in future generations of young people who are stuck in the welfare cycle – both uneducated and unemployable!

There is nothing more important than the education of our children and young people. They should have first call on your budget rather than be told that giving them a high quality education is something we can't afford. Cutting back on education is not the answer to saving money. It may save money now, but it will reduce our nation to third world standards in the future.

It's time for you to work together with the Federal Government in the interests of our future as a nation. This requires leadership and a greater financial commitment from you in education and our public schools and TAFE institutes.

I know, from personal experience, that investing more in our public schools and TAFE campuses, makes a real difference for our children and young people, our local communities and hence to our nation as a whole.

Submitted by

Mary Moss of Warrumbungle

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Maria Brown, of Spearwood make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Laboratory Technician, in the postcode of Murdoch w.a..

I returned to study at 51 years of age. I had for the previous 19 years worked in catering at a private hospital. While working here I had a serious fall due to an incorrect mat (not a safety mat) being left on the floor. This knee injury is permanent but I continued to work as I loved my job. This subsequently led to a back problem from use of unsuitable lifting and moving practices from not being able to bend my knee completely. I worked as a food supervisor and continued on each day in pain until I had a change of Manager, who took a distinct dislike to me, reduced my hours, increased my evening shifts, and I was bullied to such an extent that I could not stand it any more. As HR refused to support me I decided to return to study. When I started at tafe I had not even used the internet, not even heard of a USB or even used a periodic table. As It was over thirty years since I was last in study this was extremely difficult. If I had

not received that personal input and support from the lecturers and support staff I would not have completed my Diploma. I have learnt so much theory and practical knowledge since then I can't believe it myself. Since completing my diploma I also have continued on to further study as I am much more confident and have slowly got faith and confidence in myself again. I had completely lost this when being bullied and was very low. I would never have done this without the support I received at tafe.

Tafe not only supplies the theory behind each subject, it provides practical use of its applications as it would be in the workplace. This hands on approach is very important as gives you the opportunity to acquire specialized skills which are essential to gaining employment. Tafe also shows you what environment you may be working in and prepares you in gaining mannerisms that are required, especially as in my employment as a Technician.

As mentioned earlier if it was not for tafe I would no longer be working and contributing to the community. I would most properly no longer be working due to my age and injuries, especially in catering as no one wants to employ you as they see you as a risk. It doesn't matter how good a worker you are, you are prejudiced for your age and health issues. I will say to you even with my injury to my knee I returned back to work with my knee in a brace only after a few days off, so I can assure you I am not a lazy person. Also the manager I mentioned above told me my work ethic was too high!! and I should reduce it to suit the new staff.

Also going to tafe I met new and interesting people and have formed new a lasting friendships from this. I continue to meet these people on regular basis still. If not for tafe I would be at home feeling very depressed, most probably on medication and draining fund from the health budget. I am also contributing to Australian government by still paying tax, I could also be seeking unemployment benefits. I would also like to state that I self funded all my study and received no subsidy or assistance from the

government.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes I have. I often see quick courses advertised in the paper to complete the same diploma I have completed. It took me 2.5 years for me full time. I must say that most would take 2 years. As I had not been in study for over thirty years I decided to start from the beginning. How can you possibly learn all what it takes in two in six weeks. what important steps or requirements are not being taught.

I can say from my own and my husband's experience who recently completed his certificate four in warehouse distribution how the sourced out/sub contracted courses to private companies do not follow up properly.

My husband started his course he so called trainer quit taking all his reports with him. My husband was told he would have to repeat those subjects he had already be signed off again, due to not being able to find any evidence of his work. They eventually tracked his trainer down and accepted my husbands work.

The next trainer who came along actually was giving other staff who were completing the same course of my husband's the answers and helped to complete there courses for them.

This meant that others were not putting in the same effort as my husband and one time his trainer took a copy of his work, gave it to another staff member to copy and make minor changes to it and say he had completed the work. Well I am sorry that is cheating! and it also decreases the validation of the certification. Especially if that person goes along to another job and cannot carry certain qualification outlined in the certificate obtained.

Employers then do not value the certificate for it's intended benefit and expect future applicants with the same certificate to have the same skills from past experience. Also

these companies only come periodically, spend less than an hour with each student, provide very little documented resources to help the student and are only interested in signing off so they can receive quite significant funds for for little work.

My husband feels ripped off as he knows other staff who got the same certificate as him never completed their courses, or put the same effort in and were signed off. At Tafe this does not happen if you are not competent you have to repeat until you are. Tafe keeps to it's high standards ensuring that you are capable of the work for any future employment.

Yes .

We have several instruments used for instrumentation that are expensive to buy initially but need replacing, Such as AAS and IC. Some of the computer programs are so old it is difficult to even get them to load up. On some of these we are still using windows 2003 and they are extremely slow to load. In fact painful, how can you learn on such poor equipment.

Due to cuts also some subjects have be downsized to accommodate the reduction of lecturing costs and lecturers wages. Leaving out important aspects of the subject. The person who often makes this decision often has no idea of its importance or the subject. Often what does not seem vital now, later and further down the track is often discovered due to some of the basics not being taught initially which causes others problems.

Yes some courses that were initaly taugth in my area are only taught at a select few. This often gives our student extra travel times and expense. so quite often they won't complete the course. Often due to class size capacity certain courses may not be continued for instance if you have completed a cert four and want to complete the diploma some subjects may not be taught due to class sizes. The student may have to

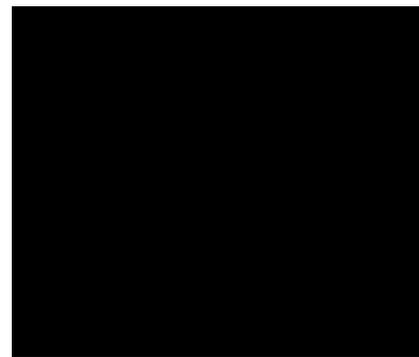
wait until the following year. i have had the same experience when I worked in catering I achieved my cert four in management and for two years I tried to complete my diploma and each time this was cancelled due to class sizes. The only way I could achieve this at the time was to quit work and attend university at the time.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦without essential resources our institute will slowly die. Like any part of education you must endeavour to provide the best qualified lecturers to pass on their valuable knowledge. Only by providing sufficient funding can you lure so to speak those best persons to tafe. Good quality equipment similar to that in the workplace is essential to give student s the experience to obtain future employment and essentially give back to the community .

Submitted by

Maria Brown of Spearwood

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Ric Willems, of Drouin make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Electrician, in the postcode of 3818.

I completed my electrical mechanics trade at Yallourn TAFE between '83 & '86, located in the LaTrobe Valley and served the power stations and paper mill. I have completed 3 post trade related courses in the interim at night school which have helped me to be competitive in the work force

The colleges offer the opportunity to further yourself, be it in your chosen profession or to broaden your horizons generally.

Helping older people with computer skills might be an example of this.

Our daughter has a learning disability but was able to attend a photography course at a TAFE. She could not perform at a high level but the course was flexible enough for her to gain some skills.

Socially this important also.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...an opportunity to gain skills to make me more employable or simply to pursue a hobby. We used to have a scheme called Proceed in our area (I'm not sure if it was wide spread), that would offer general interest and practical training but sadly, this no longer exists.

In our trade, apprenticeships are now handled predominately by group training organisations, these organisations have taken students from TAFE colleges but the young people coming through these courses are not receiving the quality training of the old TAFE or even Tech. Schools of old.

Teacher redundancies.

A lack of courses on offer.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because these are places of not just education but social inclusion where there aren't the barriers of university entrance scores or the 'old school tie'.

With huge influx of immigrants into this country, TAFE is an important spoke in the wheel that will build a strong economy.

Submitted by

Ric Willems of Drouin

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Sandra Alon, of Coonabarabran make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

TAFE is so important to the whole education system in Australia because it fulfils needs of people from 15 to past 80 for further education without going to university. It caters for all levels of entry, as well as all levels of progress and achievement. Many people, especially in country areas, have been deprived of education that they need through lack of opportunity, distance, poverty, lack of direction, cultural issues etc, but through the huge range of TAFE programs once available they are able to achieve their goals, and proceed with a career or just a better life with a positive attitude through that achievement.

Many levels of TAFE are specifically designed for the training of those needed in all industries from arts to construction, auto through to accounting. These programs are provided without bias by well-trained teachers most who must have thorough experience in the field they instruct. There are in place requirements for updating

training and progress through further levels of education, and requirements for demonstrating current practice in their field - e.g. Fine Arts and associated areas, where artists, designers and craftspeople must exhibit regularly to maintain contacts and credibility in that world.

My field in TAFE is Fine Arts, and I know that the art schools at TAFEs like Lismore, Meadowbank, Werrington, Newcastle and so many others are in the top rank for producing well-informed practicing artists, designers and craftspeople.

I could go on.

I now live in Coonabarabran NSW, a small town whose centre for many is the TAFE. Coonabarabran, the local retirement home/nursing home/hostel/dementia unit run by the community has relied on TAFE for their intake of trained Aged Care workers. No more. Mothers of young children and those on a low income or a pension who wish to train for this work now have to travel 250 k to Gunnedah every day that that they have tuition, for the length of the course. Fine Arts are no longer available there: many local people wishing to upgrade their skills and approaches in the field no longer have that choice: even though they wish to make a minor living from their work. Our indigenous population rely on the TAFE for the courses necessary for development of employment skills and maintenance of those skills and achievements. Our TAFE no longer offers their large range of auto and metal skills in welding, engineering and mechanics, and this with students who wish/need to earn their living from these skills.

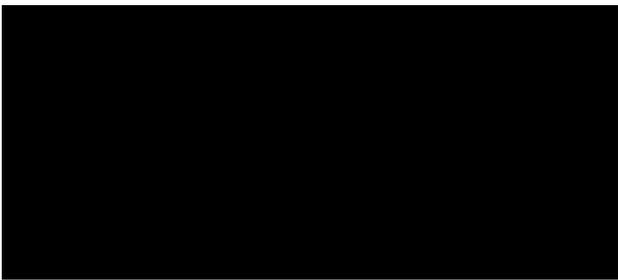
I have recently retired from work and have returned to TAFE to complete a course in Web Design, so I can build my own website, maintain it and design and build sites for others. My tuition is from a teacher who has wide field experience, much training and empathy with her students. She is exceedingly well-prepared for the several courses she teaches. I mention this because the model I have seen of the New Order, with

tutors, assessors and few teachers, seems a poor replacement for a fully working system. Education always costs, but 'user pays' systems penalise the very people TAFE is meant to help. When an entity has to make a profit from teaching, real educational values go out the window.

Submitted by

Sandra Alon of Coonabarabran

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Estella Clingman, of Cherrybrook make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retired, in the postcode of 2126.

I worked for many years as a TAFE Librarian. I saw TAFE as a wonderful educational institution and hated to see jobs and services lost through lack of funding.

TAFE is a huge contributed to all aspects of Australian life, to giving students the tools and confidence to improve their lives and to strengthening the workforce and economy.

I found the work at TAFE stimulating and fulfilling. Our daughter studied bookkeeping at TAFE and has risen to a high position in a large corporation.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I have read in newspaper about private colleges going insolvent and letting down students.

Since my retirement ten years ago I have heard of disastrous budget cuts and shortsighted NSW Gov affecting TAFE Shame on those who do not understand the value of TAFE

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is vital to the wellbeing of the people and the future of the Australia

Submitted by

Estella Clingman of Cherrybrook

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Kane Mason, of Mornington make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 3931.

I have never been to TAFE, but living in Mornington, where many friends and school colleagues have chosen to go into trades, I know of their immense importance. My brother also attended night school at TAFE to get his VCE certificate years ago too.

It gives wider choices beyond the purely academic based subjects at universities. As a former journalist and journalism student in university, I was also aware that TAFEs offered some of the best writing courses.

As above, my brother went to night school to complete his VCE. A friend of mine who had been IT qualified also decided to go to TAFE as part of his training in becoming a plumber instead, which he now happily works as.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I have noticed an increase in overpriced "colleges" but have no idea as to their competence as educators. Beauty colleges, fitness colleges, second language colleges.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because people need choices, as wide a range as possible, especially the more kinisthetically minded learner who is after an active trade rather than a books and pencil academic career. Who will build our houses and fix them when they are broken? Who will cut our hair? And too much time and money is already wasted by people doing three or four year courses when a TAFE course, shorter, cheaper, and getting people out into the workforce would be more suitable.

Submitted by

Kane Mason of Mornington

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Nobel Pullan, of Macquarie make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a paraplaner, in the postcode of 2564.

I have grown in the UAE, completed my Graduation in India and migrated to Australia. Learning about TAFE gave me the idea that Australia was truly a developed country as it focused on developing key skills with the advantage of making education available to more folks by also providing 'HELP' arrangements for those who didnt necessarily have the funds to pay upfront. I think this is a key element that if removed or reduced will have a sharp impact on the job market, unemployment and even the future of small businesses where apprentices start their careers and where some go on to start their own small businesses. I have noted that small businesses also coincidentally form a large part of the business community in Australia. To put it simply...by going the way they are proposing..they might as well talk about aligning themselves to the education model in developing countries instead of acting like a forward looking developed

country.

For any government to show it is thinking about the future of the economy this is one step that reads the opposite.

I myself have thought i'd like to be doing a course in TAFE to skill myself in a new trade so that I could increase my earning potential. Its something that will affect the future earning capacity of families looking to get in more dollars through the door to meet rising costs and expenses. In a way...this means...folks with the need and capability to upskill themselves will also have to start worrying for affordability of TAFE...

This will create a class based society where you have education available as a luxury and not something a developed nation should be contemplating. To get an idea...ask any developing country what they like about institutions like TAFE and HELP and what would they think if they had it in their own countries....

(Repeated from above) I think this is a key element that if removed or reduced will have a sharp impact on the job market, unemployment and even the future of small businesses where apprentices start their careers and where some go on to start their own small businesses. I have noted that small businesses also coincidentally form a large part of the business community in Australia. To put it simply...by going the way they are proposing..they might as well talk about aligning themselves to the education model in developing countries instead of acting like a forward looking developed country.

I have had to go through two job redundancies in the past 8 years. With business cycles affecting more and more workplaces and workers, this means that people need to be productive in more than one career and institutions like TAFE if gone will mean more able bodied folks will be at a disadvantage to help themselves.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...i can get access to further or alternative skilling and remain employable in a changing economy.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the future of the Australian economy depends on such key institutions from differentiating between a developed country having the resources to maintain a competent workforce and a developing nation grappling with a shortage of resources unable to maintain institutions like TAFE in the first place. If this goes ahead, Australian developed skilled workforce members will be on par with the workforce of many developing nations instead of being a forward thinking developed country with the determination to maintain the productivity of its workforce.

For me personally i know how the education opportunities work in countries in the GULF and India...and Australia strangely seems to be heading down a path that will create a class based society where the rich have access to quality education and the workforce no longer remains competent on a large scale. Its a situation where closing institutions like TAFE or reducing the student intake will facilitate shortages in skilled labour in a long term scenario.

Submitted by

Nobel Pullan of Macquarie

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Rosemary Walters, of Canberra make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2601.

I work as a teacher within the Adult Migrant English Program at the Canberra Institute of Technology. It is an extremely satisfying job as the migrants and refugees that I teach are very grateful to the CIT and to the Australian Government for providing them with the chance to learn English. They see Australia with hope and idealism and they work hard at their English so they can participate in our community.

People who believe in law and order should support the TAFE system because it provides a pathway for low income people to gain a trade certificate, get a job, work hard, earn good money and be part of the community. The alternative is to leave the poor struggling in poverty where they will often be tempted to move into the lucrative drug trade, thus undermining the law and order in our society.

Those who dislike the idea of people living on welfare payments should see the sense of fully funding low income students to study at TAFE and thus moving them off welfare payments and into jobs. Trades people are always in demand. We don't foresee a time when plumbers, carpenters, electricians, hairdressers, childcare workers, bricklayers and tilers will not be needed and those jobs are often well-paid. This means that formerly poor people can become comfortably well off and can help our economy instead of being a drain on it. However they need to be given that lift out of their poverty in the first place and that is where fully-funded places at the TAFE should be provided. It makes good economic sense. Pay them to get into work and off welfare. The Government saves money quite quickly.

Some people believe in privatization of everything. However those same people can see the sense in the idea of investing some money now in order to gain money later. Investing in public education can actually move people into private businesses later so that those who believe in privatization can see investment in TAFE as a business plan that makes sense.

Tom Stirling was the first apprentice to graduate from the Canberra Technical college as it was known then. He is a very old man now. He has always been a very decent, good-hearted human being. He worked hard in his job as a plumber, providing a good home for his beloved wife and children and being a good friend to many.

Gordon Luton was Apprentice of the Year at the Canberra Tech. His panel beating business was so successful that he was able to buy a farm, build a motel on it and contribute successfully to the tourism industry in Canberra - another example of investment in public education helping the private sector.

One of my students was from Afghanistan, a country that is only just learning to value the idea of women becoming educated. She wanted to drop out of her course but I persuaded her to continue. I suspected that she wanted to drop out because she didn't think her education, as a woman, was an important priority. She graduated from my class and then went to the next class. Every time I saw her, she beamed with pride and pleasure and said, "Thank you, teacher." I not only helped to teach her English but I think I helped to change her self-concept. I hope that if her daughters are tempted to under-value themselves, that she will pass on the idea that women's education is very worthwhile.

In Canberra, there are plenty of educational opportunities but for many students the Canberra Institute of Technology is the right choice. In our egalitarian society, we should hold on to the belief that helping low income people to study and find worthwhile jobs is an important goal. Looking at it another way, we would never be sorry to meet a man or woman who is well-employed while we may well feel regrets about the number of people in jail who are stumbling through the bad experiences that poverty brings.

Both my son and daughter have studied in privately offered courses, thinking that they would be quicker and easier. In 2 out of 3 of the courses, they didn't get the qualification they paid for because the course was not quicker and easier at all. In the case of the other course, it was badly put together and not pitched at the needs of the particular students involved.

My son attempted to study a course at the CIT. He had to get help from the Smith Family to pay the fees as he couldn't afford them but the first year went very well. As a mentally disabled student, he not only had a good teacher but he had an assistant who helped him with his study towards his modified pass.

However with budget cuts, the next year of the course was offered without the assistant and - without a teacher!. Students were supposed to struggle through, using e-learn only, consulting a teacher by phone when they got into difficulties. Such a choice would have been made due to a shortage of funds.

My son dropped out of the course. He didn't have a hope of doing a course in that way. I also felt that it was wrong of the CIT to ask for fees and then not even provide a real teacher. They probably felt it was a budgetary triumph but I felt it was disgusting. So they saved some money but lost the fees that my son, and probably other students, would have provided.

As budget cuts bite deeper, workers become stressed. The Canberra Institute of Technology has become scarred by multiple examples of bullying. The main cause of that has been careless management but it is difficult for managers to manage individuals with personality problems as well as the ever increasing financial stresses.

Managers can find themselves talking more and more about money while teachers are wanting to continue discussing educational issues. Fortunately our particular manager has stopped talking endlessly about money because it was really dragging our morale into the dust. However I am sure she is quietly worrying about it because the financial difficulties are very real.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because money spent on moving low-income people into jobs is money spent preventing crime, stimulating our economy, helping the private sector and enabling families to have

happy, healthy lives. I want the poor to move into lives that are as satisfying as mine has been, as healthy as mine has been, as varied and interesting as mine has been. As a middle class woman, I have tended to assume that I should get opportunities and choices. However as an Australian, I want low income people to have the good life and to give back to our community. I think that TAFE provides the ideal pathway from poverty with all its attendant problems of homelessness, poor health and crime, into well-paid jobs and well-lived lives.

Submitted by

Rosemary Walters of Canberra

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Peter Pearce, of North Ryde make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a , in the postcode of 2113.

TAFE gave me a second chance in education in life. My teachers were highly trained and qualified professionals. After completing two trade courses and a number of other quality TAFE courses related to my industrial experience I was able to apply for a teaching position in TAFE because the courses had underpinned my desire and ability to broaden my highly transferrable skills. As a TAFE teacher in a publicly funded institution I was able to repay that quality educational experience by gaining post graduate qualifications and devote many hundreds of (unpaid) hours in a spirit of community support for my students. I did this with often cutting edge technology that supported this states move into computerised learning and assessment. The public looked after me with a professional educational and training institution and in turn I devoted a major part of my life to following TAFE students-public students.

By providing professionally qualified teachers who are experts and can pass on their expertise and learning techniques to it's students. A skilled and educated workforce is the ONLY way we can advance and even hope to compete with other and countries that were smart enough to invest in quality education whilst we were cutting funding to TAFE and Universities.

See my explanation in point 3 as it outlines my personal situation. I also know of many students that considered themselves under achievers or even failures in school being able to achieve success and renew their self worth due to their experiences in TAFE and these people often went on to become successful . creative businessmen- that directly benefits the community in many ways.

No, I do not but have and realise that when funding was cut the college closed down an essential number of courses and the community was diminished due to the loss of skills, social connection and community spirit let alone business interconnections that TAFE provided as a forum for such activities. TAFE means more than just courses it you look below the surface...

Yes I have witnessed this tragic situation for our economy and reputation especially for the huge and (hopefully) growing overseas student 'market'. No one will buy a bad or inferior product. I have seen the demise of AMES, the cheap and sometimes fraudulent private colleges and the grab for money by such corporations anxious to cash in on a naeive government, especially one with an ideological bent and lacking in understanding of what makes a quality learning institution rather than a quality 'business' that makes excellent hamburgers and fries.

I have seen the budget cuts reducing the quality being able to be delivered as governments set lower and lower benchmarks for teacher qualifications whilst

mouthed empty and hollow comments about improving competitiveness -the public sees recognises this.

Yes, it has reduced our educational competitiveness and quality of delivery. Permanent full time professionals properly trained must deliver to permanent viable industries. The alternative is a diminishing set of mines that will eventually shift away or run out of needed materials.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is not just essential to be within a smarter, highly skilled country-it is an immediate imperative to our economic survival and social wellbeing. TAFE is often the economic, educating and social glue needed and essential for a very large part of the population. Diminish it at our risk. Other less fortunate countries are ahead of us in the desire for quality education and investment.

Submitted by

Peter Pearce of North Ryde

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Shane Ralph, of Railway Estate make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Maintenance Person, in the postcode of 4810.

My wife and I have both completed TAFE courses over the years and we have two teenage children who have looked at TAFE and one day may consider studying with them.

TAFE gives students the grounding and skills to get into a feild in which they are interested in.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I have heard of budget cuts.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦We need trained people of all ages and for some people TAFE is their only option to gain suitable Qualifications and confidence to lead a reasonable quality of life..

Submitted by

Shane Ralph of Railway Estate

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Melissa Dunstan, of Kings Park make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a banker, in the postcode of 5034.

I am currently a third year visual arts student at the Adelaide College of the Arts (Tafe). Becoming a mature age student at Tafe has been the best experience of my life. I have met a group of like minded people and gained invaluable knowledge from the high standard of lecturers. I cannot imagine how terrible it would be if this course was no longer available as art & culture should be highly regarded in our society.

Tafe provides essential skills which cannot be gained at other tertiary institutions. Our workforce is already suffering from lack of qualified tradespeople and it is vital to have education available in skilled areas. The government needs to continue to provide education in these areas otherwise the next generation will have an even larger gap in the workforce than we already have.

My current banking job is under threat of outsourcing to an overseas company and hundreds of jobs in my workplace have already been made redundant. Due to my precarious position I began to study at Tafe so if I loose my job, I will have the skills to be employed in another field. It gives me comfort to know I am making myself more employable.

I already had to move campuses as the course I began was removed from the campus I was enrolled at (O'Halloran Hill Tafe SA). I have noticed a reduction of lecturers, larger class sizes and reduction of subjects since I moved to Adelaide College of the Arts. I also have noticed a greater number of duties expected from lecturers.

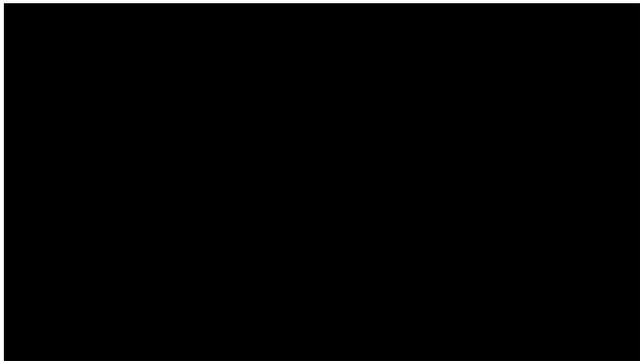
I have noticed a reduction in permanent lecturing staff, larger classes and not all subjects being offered. I also noticed issues with the class time table because the course coordinator was made redundant and the time table is not being correctly structured.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because I cherish my study and I love being at Tafe. I would be devastated if further cuts happen as my experience at Tafe has been life changing and I desperately want to finish my course and continue to do further courses at Tafe, so I can ensure employment for myself in the workforce in the future.

Submitted by

Melissa Dunstan of Kings Park

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Geoffrey Davidson, of Braddon make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a semi retired, in the postcode of 2612.

TAFE , an apprenticeship and mechanical Engineering certificate (Associate Diploma) set my life from 16 in the absolute best of ways. I undertook a pre apprenticeship course for 1 year at Cowra TAFE. I did not hate high school but years 10 and 11 were not for me. I started at Garden Island Dockyard as a fitter and machinist apprentice, boarding with an old lady.. The opportunities were enormous and by the age of 24 as a technical officer I was sent to the USA to undertake training and became an accidental project manager on upgrading and overhauling the Navy 60 tonne missile launchers, Cutting short, I was seconded to Prime Minister and Cabinet for a year in 2003/4, and became a certified Project Director for 6 of my last years. TAFE and an apprenticeship was the best.

TAFE is essential for Aust, the workforce, industry, competition and necessary for those who don't want to be in year 11-12. It removes them from distracting the others who do want to go to years 11-12.

Explained before

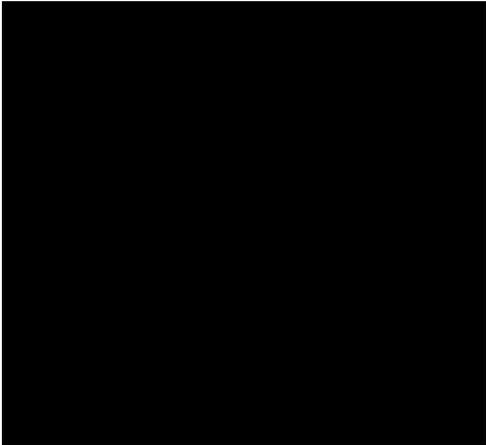
Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because this the backbone of industry, tradesmen and young ladies and lads.

Submitted by

Geoffrey Davidson of Braddon

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Edla Arzey, of Wilton make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Veterinarian, in the postcode of 2571.

Our daughter is currently enrolled in the Diploma course in Screen & Media, at Illawarra TAFE, Wollongong Campus. She completed the Certificate IV in Screen & Media last year. She didn't want to go to University as she wanted practical training.

TAFE courses develop practical skills for many areas in the workforce e.g. trades such as plumbers electricians, motor mechanics, child care, office and administration skills and performing art skills.

Our daughter commenced her path to her desired career whilst still at school by doing a VET Ed course, completing a Certificate III in Entertainment. University did not provide courses for the skills she required but TAFE did.

We live in the Wollondilly Shire and Illawarra TAFE is the only practical choice to complete the course. Funds have been cut for the course meaning fewer teaching hours, fewer hours for technical support staff and less access to, or availability of, functional, up-to-date equipment .

I don't know about the regulatory controls or the standards of private colleges in the field of screen and media, however, I do know that the cost of courses is beyond the reach of school leavers and their parents viz \$20,000 for the private college for a 1 year course versus about \$3,500 over 3 years for the Cert IV, Diploma, then Advanced Diploma.

There have been cuts to teaching face to face hours, teaching staff numbers and those remaining have reduced hours of work from full-time to part-time and also technical support staff working hours have been cut from full-time to 3 hours/day.

The number of classes has remained the same but the duration of each class has been halved.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because without adequate and complete practical training of apprentices and students in other sectors, they will unleash, on the unsuspecting public, inadequately trained or incompetent people into the workforce.

Submitted by

Edla Arzey of Wilton

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Marion Crooke, of Abbotsford make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Creative Producer, in the postcode of 3067.

I have worked in the film and community arts fields as a producer/director for 20 years. Many of the people I employed were trained through TAFE, and I am now undertaking a Textile Design and Development Course. I want to continue to work as an artist for as long as I can.

Skills development is critical in the creative industries: it's about doing and experiencing. And the creative industries make a major contribution to our economy as well as enriching our lives. TAFE Colleges provide employment for creative practitioners and a vital interface between artists and students.

I am now embarking on a new career and enjoy seeing the highly motivated and

talented students who will either set up their own small businesses or contribute to the larger workforce. My friend is now a jeweller, after undertaking a TAFE course. We need to RESKILL not DESKILL.

This does not apply to me, but certainly has to students that I am studying with. My friend's son studied theatre at Ballarat and is now acting: the TAFE, a highly respected institute, has been closed because of the State Government TAFE cuts. There are many other examples in Victoria, whilst a letter I wrote to the Minister last year assured me that "no TAFE would close".

We have hosted overseas students undertaking courses at private colleges, and were concerned sometimes that the training they were receiving was not adequate.

Absolutely, staff have been lost at our TAFE and support in IT. As a result, highly skilled teachers are carrying a greater burden and are being forced to consider whether this is tenable.

TAFEs have been closed (one at Swinburne had established an Environmental Centre, over many years, and this has been lost). There are countless examples. The NMIT jewellery course, which is at an extremely high level, is having to consider it's future, as is the music course.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because practical training is essential, particularly for many areas of the arts, and also because TAFE offers an entry point to young people who may not be able to access University, and live in regional areas. Australia needs skilled people, and there are jobs for trained TAFE people, whilst others may become self employed. It offers opportunities for mature students (who are paying their way) to change career. There is a lot of

equipment required around many of the courses, and to lose the investment that has been made is poor economics.

WE NEED TO RE SKILL NOT DESKILL.

Submitted by

Marion Crooke of Abbotsford

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, , of moorooka make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 4105.

I have been teaching music in TAFE for over 18 years. I believe competency-based training is much more realistic than university-based education. I have a PhD and a Masters from Cambridge. University-based study favours those who can play the academic system. Study/cram get a 50% pass and get out with a degree. The problem is that the industry expects higher outcomes. At TAFE you need to get 100% correct to pass. If you don't then you have another go until you do. Teaching is based on helping students believe in themselves. Keep on trying mate and you'll get 100%. Everybody loves getting a 100% result. It cannot help but inspire confidence.

Cheap competency-based training helps ALL Australians, not just .those with financial or the right cultural capital. TAFE represents a country that believes in funding education at all levels: primary, secondary and tertiary to ALL Aussies. While Uni has

in the past been a haven for the smart (or the rich) tAFE is there for everyone, whether it's doing a full career-changing qualification or even a short night course in improving your English skills or photography. TAFE is education for EVERYONE. It's always been affordable and accessible to everyone - from postgraduates to low achieving TAFE teachers are the best teachers too. They know how to teach low achievers with bad histories at school level and get them up and out there, filled with a new confidence and bag full of new skills. University teaching is so different (been there done that) because you are already teaching confident students who have achieved pretty well in school. Abolishing TAFE means choosing to become the US where the only way a poor student can get tertiary education is through a scholarship. Australia is a big land with a reasonably small population. It will never compete with giants like China and the US, unless it's population is ten times more educated. I teach in TAFE because I believe in affordable education. I am in the process of drafting a 3 year degree program . Without government funding the degree looks like costing \$48000. If a student can't afford this, then they can get fee help which adds a further 20% to the cost...almost \$60 000. It would be cheaper to go and study in America or the UK at a prestigious school. We will lose our youth to overseas universities for sure, with these kind of fees.

I've got 100 stories. One in particular comes to mind. JK didn't finish school. He worked in a chicken factory until he was 23. He played in rockbands on the weekend. He enrolled in our Diploma in Music as a drummer. He struggled through the course, not in drumming, but in the more academic subjects like music theory. He passed and got into the Queensland Conservatorium. Then he went on to The Rotterdam Conseravatoire where he did his Masters. Today he is a full time drummer in Amsterdam.

I live in Brisbane.

Of course. Our competition is SAE and JMC in Brisbane. I don't like to comment on quality as I know the teachers are good musicians and industry professionals. However, they do provide students with far less face to face tuition, with inferior facilities to our own, but traditionally at a greater cost. However, we are fast catching up to their exorbitant fees.

I know Campbell Newman is planning on amalgamating Brisbane's TAFE campuses into one super TAFE. I know he is only interested in funing courses that support his four pillars...which i think is incredibly greedy...just chasing the dollar without giving people any choice. Furthermore, he plans to cut NATT leave which is the main perk why teachers teach, for such low wages, because they get to spend more time with their families and not have to put the kids into childcare. Without NATT there will be an exodus from the teaching profession. I taught for three years on a contract before I was offered permanency. This will go when Newman gets his way too. !8 years I've faithfully worked at my job. My job security will be gone too and I'll look elsewhere for a secure job, again, maybe overseas. I already know permanent teachers are being rehired under contract at far lesser wages in my area.

TAFE is on the ropes in Queensland. I believe it will be sold off once it is forced to become a statutory authority. Newman again is chasing easy cash at the expense of a future generation's education. Nice one.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the future depends on education, more than mining, more than construction, more than tourism, more than anything.

Submitted by
of moorooka

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, geoffrey Aitken, of Alice Springs make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a VET lecturer, in the postcode of 0870.

I completed an apprenticeship and Cert iv Mechanical Technician(using TAFE SA)...I later articulated (mature age) to teaching (CAE SA) and have returned to TAFE after many years as a school teacher to provide LLN support to VET students. All students in my care are extremely grateful for the opportunities TAFE provides. TAFE trains this community and provides the post school confidence to move into the future. We also provide a positive environment for those returning to training as mature aged students.

Obviously TAFE provides the theoretical component to all approved training for the majority of Australians. My experience shows VET lecturers (especially in the Trades) provide confidence and workplace support and knowledge for growth and personal maturity into our trainees' futures.

Many VET students who come through my classes are wanting something more than unskilled or semi-skilled employment. Not all have done well at school and for them TAFE is the safety net that can provide them with an opportunity to have a meaningful future. School has often failed these students and though their academic skills lack polish their determination flourishes under the care and support of TAFE lecturers and VET courses. TAFE is the best vehicle to allow mature aged students to upskill and improve their employment prospects.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...continuing local friendships, forging closer community relationships, maintaining confidence and esteem and supporting local initiatives whilst articulating to adulthood whilst employers and family can follow those developments. We are known to all employers and actively support our local community and work well within it. We are very good at what we do and the community respects us for it. Without us (and replaced by private providers) local training initiatives would be turned over to FIFO training with no connection with our community.

I know personally of local private providers delivering questionable training for the Certificate IV Training and Assessment...just cut and paste from materials provided. Similar inappropriate delivery to 'bush' students is well known locally...shonky!!

So far so good BUT our workshops desperately requiring upgrades for supported cutting edge delivery.

We don't have the (supported) opportunities to attend conferences we had once (for professional development) without significant out of pocket expenses. We have lost the old 'stand down' associated with equivalent school holidays; similarly, we must complete administrative tasks without the support we once accustomed.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because this is the vehicle for school leavers who don't qualify for university or who have graduated with poor employment opportunities but more significantly TAFE trains middle Australia and allows those students whose foremost desire is to maximise their employment opportunities as soon as possible following their formal schooling.

Submitted by

geoffrey Aitken of Alice Springs

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Fennella Ashman, of Lakes Entrance . make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a volunteer, in the postcode of 3909.

Having taught in various sectors of the TAFE systems over some years. I'm heart broken to see the untold damage, which has been inflicted by the Victorian Government.

TAFE is the pathway for many students to gain the technological skills needed for today's workforce.

For many of my former students who were early school leavers, or women returning to study after many years .Enrolling in a TAFE course, gave them the opportunity to develop skills which would enable them to eventually enter the workforce. And for

many, into University. less opportunity

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means less opportunity to develop their skill base .

What upsets me more so, is the proliferation of smaller private colleges particularly in Melbourne . Through their sleek advertising, & particularly focusing on the overseas student population. And as so many of these so called private providers have collapsed due to their poorly regulated business plans. Many of these providers have much lower educational standards. therefore ,so many students are left with useless qualifications .

Living in Eastern Victoria, I have noticed a huge drop in numbers of students undertaking courses at the Bairnsdale Campus. And one campus in Lakes Entrance. has been closed.

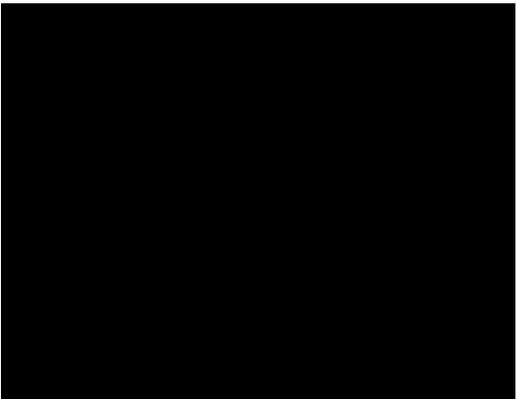
I believe that the number of students undertaking the Hospitality diploma at the Bairnsdale campus, has been drastically cut .

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because with out a strong, effective TAFE system, many young people will miss out on being able to develop the necessary work based skills to add to their community & for their working future.

Submitted by

Fennella Ashman of Lakes Entrance .

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Howard Kennedy, of Bundamba make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retiree, in the postcode of 4304.

In 1971 which I believe to be pre TAFE days I was a 15 y old more academic than practical with a better than average "Junior" pass.

My father was on a selection panel which aimed to employ apprentices for the following year. He was quite peturbed when fellow panel members were focussing almost entirely on results in academic subjects and sifting out applicants who had proved very competent in trade subjets but were poorer in say English & higher level maths and science

He pointed out that on that basis I would have gained an apprenticeship in a trade I most probably wasn't suited.

Thankfully, TAFE colleges ensued and current secondary schooling involves an academic stream and a more job preparation oriented skill stream.

Given the current industry driven push for ready made employees perhaps it's just as well.

However, to reduce the effectiveness of TAFE colleges could result in one of the following occurrences;

(1) a return to the bad old days as described where employment prospect could be "influenced."

(2) Industries being forced to contribute more practically and financially to the skill development of employees and therefore more on the job training.

To me funding education and training for those who are not academically inclined is essential for our future and will give hope to those talented tradesies of the future..

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need trained trade workers who can then deal with the practical needs of our society.

Submitted by

Howard Kennedy of Bundamba

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Maggie Pearce, of Casula make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Training Manager, in the postcode of 2170.

I have myself used TAFE services through distance learning to gain HR qualifications to better my career. I also manage 80 apprentices whom attend TAFE to gain experience in their respective fields.

TAFE contribute to society in assisting build our trades persons, clerical and managers of the future.

I left school after Yr 10,joined the workforce and undertook studies through TAFE via distance learning so I could get a better job in the future.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means regional communities are able to develop their skills ready for employment.

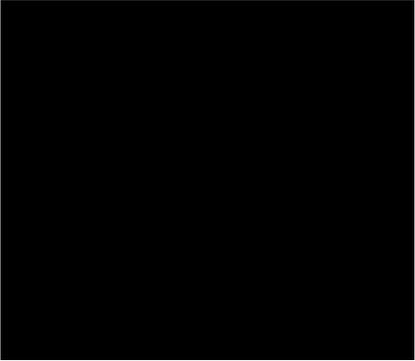
Budget cuts have lessened TAFE ability to assist students whom require additional assistance in order to pass their course.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because without the proper funding allocation there will be increased skills gaps in industries which are important to ensure the continued growth of this country.

Submitted by

Maggie Pearce of Casula

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Paula Thornton, of Alice Springs make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 0870.

Neither my husband nor I attended a TAFE but have always believed it offers an alternative path for those who do not want to go to a university or work in retail outlets or, worse still, have no skilled work opportunities. When I left school in the mid 70s, all my friends were able to get a job, go to uni or get training in some area. I do not think this is the case any more. We now have a group of people who have nowhere to go for work training choices.

TAFE used to be available, even in small towns, for those who wanted trades training but here in Alice Springs, the choice of TAFE courses (now called VET in the NT) are steadily decreasing to the detriment of our apprentices and businesses. From the late 80s we were warned Australia would have a skills shortage and this became the case

in the 90s (thank you Mr Howard, P.M.) but where were the forward looking politicians at this time? With the shortage of TAFE's we are not providing training for those who are interested in a trade so we have a couple of generations who have missed out on apprenticeships and trades. Australia used to be the lucky country but I do not think it is anymore - too many big businesses and business men/women calling the shots with the goal being making money and our governments are allowing and encouraging this to happen.

Until Charles Darwin University (C.D.U.) swallowed up Centralian College in Alice Springs, TAFE courses were available for anyone who wanted to pursue a trade (e.g. diesel mechanic, automotive, driver training) and it had a very good reputation. When CDU took over, the trades areas have been decimated and are not going to be re-instated. Also, CDU (Higher Ed) is interested in making money and attracting HE funding rather than offering alternatives so now we have some people who are disengaged and likely to have no alternatives for their future training and employment. Governments have, I believe, over the years continued to reduce funding to all education in the effort to make their budgets look better. There was and still continues to be the very short-sighted program of budget cuts to education with apparently no planning for future resolution of our skills shortage. The higher cost of attending TAFE will make the problem worse - for Australia and the individuals involved. I think many of our present politicians, like myself benefited from free tertiary education. The government did pay for my tertiary qualification and my husband's and have been able to tax us for over 35 years. I'm sure the short term cost of providing this opportunity has been well and truly repaid many, many times.

High Schools are now taking on some 'training' of students in Year 10(!) in some of our Government Senior Secondary Colleges in Darwin. I do not know what happens in the private schools. The Queensland (very short) Security Officer "Course" is only one

example of Private RTO's taking shortcuts.

My husband was a TAFE lecturer until last year. He was often questioned on the economics of running his courses. He travelled to many Aboriginal Communities the length and breadth of the NT teaching Occupational Health and Safety and also First Aid.

As stated earlier, courses have decreased. Another impact is that lecturers/trainers are leaving (well) before retirement age. Experienced lecturers who believe in education and training are now being expected to focus on making money. My husband believed he was offering a service to his students and knew that his employer was more interested in making money.

What is available to those who do not want to pursue academic training? As a child, I remember there were community colleges or Adult Education Centres where people learnt a trade or went for courses (dress making etc). Where are these now??

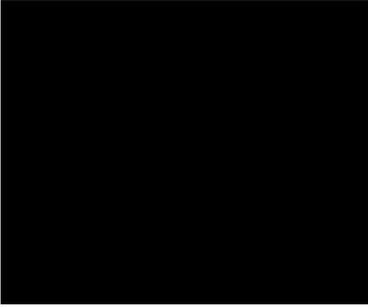
Course Fees are increasing, face -to -face lectures are decreasing with online courses, businesses are not taking on apprentices due to costs and time in training ... No wonder we are relying on overseas recruits.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because where I live there are few industries or businesses to take on apprentices. I am concerned about the number of post-compulsory school aged students who are disengaged and have few options to prepare them for their future careers.

Submitted by

Paula Thornton of Alice Springs

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Craig Brown, of Petersham North make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Designer, in the postcode of 2049.

I know that 70% of my classmates completed their course and would have learned valuable skills for life if not directly giving them a career. I thought my Tafe class was as valuable if not more so than my university degree, and I wasn't stuck with a bill that took me ten years to pay back. I have admiration and respect for TAFE teachers, some of which inspire over ten years since my course.

TAFE makes career training possible for average Australians.

TAFE is available for people on Centrelink Newstart and provides valuable training for people lacking skills, especially at a time when they are finding it hard to locate work. It just makes sense. I've taken advantage of that opportunity and am grateful for it.

I live in the city and find the present Tafe locations convenient.

I actually have enjoyed learning at private colleges as well, I would argue there is room for all these educational models.

I noticed a lot of art-related classes disappeared as well as specialist trades such as shoe-making. I think it's sad when people can't learn the skills for trades they are interested in.

The government should be investing in the future of Australia by investing in education like TAFE. Sadly the erosion of services seems to be a continuing trend.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it helps average Australians like me learn valuable skills and gain employment.

Submitted by

Craig Brown of Petersham North

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Rodney Jones, of Medowie NSW make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Project Manager, in the postcode of 2318.

Having worked in the Royal Australian Air Force as a Radio Technian, I attended TAFE to earn civilian qualifcations for my trade which combined with my experience and gap courses at TAFE I earned an Advanced Diploman in Electrical Engineering. TAFE is a good step between high school and university, and as not all young people want to go to or can afford university, TAFE is a good opportunity to improve your skills in career streams that you would like to move into, or to give you a start in a career.

TAFE gives younger and older people the ability to improve their skills or acquire skills to either move to another career stream or start their careers. Sometimes young people have a poor high school experience or they are late starters, and TAFE gives them the opportunity to again kick of their opportunities to get into the workforce

without going back to school as an older person. TAFE largely has mature age students who are motivated to learn within an environment devoid of idiots (except for those who are there as a condition of being on the dole).

TAFE allowed me to acquire civil recognition of my skills on leaving the Air Force. It is also affording my Daughter the ability to move into the child care industry after failing nursing at university.

The area I live in has both TAFE and university opportunities. I don't see university as an avenue for those that just want to move into trades, learn basic accounting, or develop advanced office skills. Also when you are raising a family, who can afford the huge fees charged by universities. Getting rid of TAFE courses is another nail in the coffin which is leaving Australians less skilled with less opportunities.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because young Australians need a place to further their education while looking for jobs and university education is just not an option for them. The less employable our younger generation becomes, the less tax payers to put money back into general revenue.

Submitted by

Rodney Jones of Medowie NSW

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Maryanne BELL, of Hazelbrook make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am a 55 year old casual (not through choice) ESL TAFE teacher worried about the fate of my students and my employment since the NSW Premier has imposed extreme cost saving restrictions on the public education sector.

My story? TECH or TAFE has always been a valuable institution for me and members of my family.

After leaving secondary school in Newcastle in 1975, and finding myself unemployed TAFE was the place I learnt secretarial skills and later while working as a medical clerk in the late 1970s I studied Life Drawing in the evenings.

Both short courses helped me when I was a young adult and I credit them (and of course the wonderful teachers) with saving my life and acting as a pathway into tertiary

education in the 1980s and 1990s... and into the resulting professional employment.

TAFE is still playing an important role in my life for I am currently enrolled in two TAFE courses: Diploma of Landscape Design and Cert IV Permaculture.

"Knowledge Nation?" "Life Long Learning?" In this political climate of "user pays" and "corporatisation" I have only been able to afford to continue my studies with concessional assistance because I am a carer for my frail aged mother; thoughts of studying part-time at university since the introduction of HECS has been out of the question.

Other Australians? I am very worried for other Australians who want to enter into the workforce or acquire other skills. Both the states and the Australian Federal Government seem to have turned their backs on the majority of Australians who cannot afford the prohibitively expensive university courses and now the rising costs of TAFE courses.

Rather than making educational affordable and accessible for all Australians, all governments of both political persuasions would rather talk of short-term budgets and profits. They have reduced places in educational institutions, reduced numbers of permanent educational staff, increased class sizes, sold educational premises and preferred to allow the private business sector to sponsor "unskilled and skilled workers".

Australia will be the loser should this short-sighted strategy continue; it will become a continent where our almost 23 million Australians are uneducated, working small hours for decreasing pay in an environment thrown open to business exploitation. How can Australia "Advance" into the 21st century and embrace the "Asian Century"? We can

do better than this.

TAFE must be funded and nurtured so it can continue to remain the vital element in returning Australians to dignified and permanent employment; where government listens to the will of the people and where business works for the good of Australia and not its "shareholders".

Australia helped me with my education and I want to continue teaching Australians in Australian teaching institutions such as TAFE that support its teachers by providing them with educational development and with 21st century equipment and facilities.

Is that not how TAFENSW is evolving? I have to answer with a resounding NO!

Recently I had to pay \$500 to complete a Certificate IV TAE10 in order to continue my casual teaching at WSI. Imagine how the majority casual teachers felt when we learnt that the few full-time staff did not have to pay. We certainly did not feel supported and while completing this qualification the inherent language only fills me with fear for the Australian worker and the inevitable reduction of quality both in goods and services; think health services along with education. I for one will not be "delivering" and "assessing" at business work sites.

Respectfully yours,

Maryanne Bell

Nepean College

WSI TAFENSW

Submitted by

Maryanne BELL of Hazelbrook

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Bruce Rogan , of Annandale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Electrician , in the postcode of 2038.

Dear committee I grew up on a property in the country in central NSW & went to Dubbo TAFE after finishing school @ year 10 . I attended a pre apprentice course electrical & metal fabrication were I learnt skills & knowledge I use to this day in life & work . That knowledge secured me a job with ODonnald griffin a leading electrical company @ the time & with the pre-apprentice behind me I was leaps & bounds ahead of other apprentices . I attended Meadowbank Tafe for my apprenticeship which was both enjoyable & educational having the TAFE close to we're I lived was a great plus . I also attended a TAFE welding course after school on a train @ Dunnedoo , all TAFE courses were of great Benefit

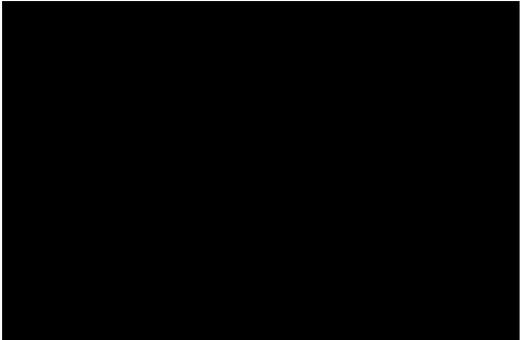
Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦!

Submitted by

Bruce Rogan of Annandale

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Penny Ryan, of Marrickville make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

Background

SAVE ART in TAFE is a group established in NSW in October 2012 in response to the NSW government's decision to stop all funding of TAFE Visual arts, sculpture and ceramics courses as of January 2013. Over 15000 people signed an online petition against the cuts and 27000 signatures were collected on a hard copy petition presented to Carmel Tebbutt, Opposition Shadow Minister in mid November that was tabled in NSW Parliament in March of this year. The campaign was organised solely by art students across NSW, coordinated by a group from Fine Arts Inc Meadowbank (an incorporated body established in 2011 designed to promote the Meadowbank art school). As a Advanced Diploma student at Meadowbank and President of FAIM, I undertook much of the coordination and am submitting on behalf of the campaign group.

Development of skills in the Australian economy

TAFE plays a vital role in development of skills across age groups, backgrounds and location. TAFE art courses have been part of technical education since its inception and have continued to adapt to developments in art and technology - for instance digital media. There is now substantial research to indicate that teaching creative skills is key to the future of the economy as they assist in the development of innovation, problem solving and deeper thinking that will be required for the Australian economy to remain flexible and sustainable (see NSW Creative Industries Taskforce Report 2013).

Because of TAFE's flexibility and accessibility (both locational and its capacity for social inclusion), it has been key to operating as a pathway to gaining skills for further study and for employment. The quality of art courses has been maintained by having practising artists as teachers, excellent facilities and infrastructure. In contrast private sector art courses tend to teach aspects of art that do not require expensive infrastructure (painting and drawing in contrast to ceramics, printmaking, digital media, sculpture).

Developing opportunities for improvement in life and employment

Part of the NSW government's rationale for ceasing funding to TAFE arts courses was supposedly 'poor job prospects' and poor completion rates. The NSW government was unable to provide any statistics to support these statements and recent Federal and NSW government reports on the creative industries projections for employment growth contradicted the 'poor job prospects' argument.

A 2012 online survey with a 59% response rate of 132 recent graduates, conducted by Meadowbank TAFE art school found that 58% of graduates were employed partially or fully in paid employment that required the skills gained from their TAFE course. Many

had found paid work as art educators in a wide range of settings including in schools, in disability or mental health settings and at universities. Other employment settings included local government (working with specific groups such as youth, older people etc or as community cultural development workers), in photography and in film/theatre industries (as props builders, set designers etc).

Since graduation 66% had gone onto further study, 39% at university level.

Most had substantial art practices, with 24% working as full time artists and a further 56% practise part time (54% have had a solo show, 54% had received a commission, 53% had won an art prize, 89% had participated in more than one group exhibition and 32% had received an art grant or a residency).

This is the only known outcomes survey of TAFE arts course graduates and provides clear evidence of TAFE's success as a pathway to both education and to employment.

This is further reinforced when examining the NCVET statistics for 2011 relating to students of TAFE creative courses. TAFE has been very effective at reaching the most disadvantaged and giving them a pathway to further education. 60% of students in these courses were studying certificate level courses; 32% had year 11 or less schooling; one third were from the bottom two quintiles of socio-economic disadvantage; 6.5% were Indigenous and 29.5% were located in regional and remote areas.

While just under half the students were school leavers, the remaining age distribution was fairly evenly distributed, allowing people in their working, parenting and retirement years to have access to skill development. The Meadowbank survey found half of the graduates were in their 40's on graduation, and 80% were women (reflecting the

flexibility of TAFE in encouraging part time workers and women with caring duties to still participate).

The delivery of programs and services to support regions, individuals and communities
As outlined above, TAFE art courses have been particularly important in delivering programs and services in regional areas. Across NSW each region used to provide a main art school and deliver courses to multiple smaller communities. The art schools within TAFE performed more than a direct educational function:

- * they helped to draw professionals to towns by being the base of a cultural hub that makes country living more attractive
- * they are linked to regional galleries, supporting their growth and ongoing viability
- * they became the basis for supporting arts tourism in rural areas, linking local artists with 'studio trails' and other events that helped to build local tourist economies
- * they became the basis for the development of art industries - for example supporting the development of Aboriginal businesses such as paper making in northern NSW or the development of a furniture design industry linked to timber in Coffs Harbour.

The impact of funding changes and contestability

The impact of the withdrawal of funding has been disastrous for art courses in TAFE. A recent survey of head teachers in NSW art courses found that the number of hours being taught is around one quarter of those previously undertaken for a Diploma in Fine Arts (previously a two year course, 28 hours per week, now a one year course ranging between 8 hours to 16 hours per week). The drop in teaching hours has a substantial impact on standards and quality of courses offered and the skills that can be gained by students.

Certificate courses, which previously attracted 60% of all arts students and provided a pathway into further education and skill development have reduced to less than a

quarter of courses offered in NSW - in many cases no certificate courses are now available. This is because the fee increases associated with funding ceasing are now between \$2000-\$4000, with no access to VET FEE Help for certificate levels. Yet certificate courses were designed for the most disadvantaged - those with least education and least access to funds to pay for fees.

Rural areas have been hardest hit and while a single art school in each region nominally remains, course delivery in smaller towns has ceased. For example, while West Wollongong still provides some courses, Goulburn and Moss Vale have closed (one course is being offered until mid year). The impact of these cuts will be felt over the next few years as country towns lose their arts hubs and arts communities lose access to facilities and ongoing development.

There has been a massive job loss for artists as a result of the changes. It is unknown exactly how many people have lost jobs, but at a minimum around 400 are estimated to have lost teaching hours. Many mid career artists represented by commercial galleries relied on supplementary income from TAFE teaching to support their art practice. It will not be easy for these artists to regain teaching hours elsewhere, particularly outside Sydney as there are few private spaces that have sufficient facilities and infrastructure to allow the teaching of the full range of visual arts.

The main impact will be felt across Australia in the coming decade. Artists will increasingly come from a metropolitan elite who have attended universities. There will be fewer practising artists and those that have attended universities will not have the practical skills required for all art forms (TAFE has traditionally been the deliverer of these skills, with a pathway between TAFE to university and from university to TAFE being well understood). This is not just a NSW issue - the impact of the changes in Victoria and Queensland along with NSW will impact the development of artists across

Australia.

This matters because creative expression and participation is a right of all citizens - enshrined in the UNESCO Convention on the Promotion and Protection of Diversity of Cultural Expression to which Australia is a signatory.

We would like the Inquiry to note:

- * the critical role of TAFE in providing public infrastructure to support cultural learning and expression
- * the PAST high quality of TAFE Art courses in training artists and providing a professional pathway to employment in the creative industries
- * the role of the creative industries in Australia's current and future economy and TAFE's important contribution to this industry
- * the capacity of TAFE to reach highly disadvantaged sections of the Australian community and provide an effective pathway for them to gain education and employment, particularly through the arts
- * the need for ongoing subsidy to enable TAFE arts courses to continue and to remain accessible

Submitted by

Penny Ryan of Marrickville

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Catherine Joel, of Woolwich make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Artist and secretary, in the postcode of 2110.

My daughter did Adv Diploma Fashion Design at Ultimo TAFE and has succeeded in a career in fashion here and overseas. I have an Adv Diploma in Fine Arts from Meadowbank TAFE and found it a wonderfully fulfilling skills and educational experience. I have continued to work in the arts due to this course.

TAFE provides a SKILL base with time to bed down that knowledge and learn on the job skills. You cannot learn these skills from the internet or books. You need to actually practice a skill to be proficient in it and that is what TAFE provided. TAFE gives further education to the non-university student, with the more valuable skills-based, hands on education.

Going to TAFE in my fifties and learning skills and theory behind those skills was life affirming, mentally stimulating and provided a rigour that was vitally important to me at that stage of my life. It has given me opportunities I otherwise would not have aimed for.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes, so many lower quality courses offered, especially to vulnerable foreign students who learn nothing and pay very large fees, with colleges often shutting down mid course so producing no skilled outcomes whatsoever. Private colleges offer less face to face teaching, less skills based hands on experience than TAFE. We will be all the worse off as a society in the future with such poor teaching and skills.

Well, fine arts courses lost all their funding in one hit with no warning at all and I know that even a one year course in hairdressing now costs in excess of \$14,000. Who will take up these places? Lesser quality with exorbitant fees? Who will our skilled workers be in the future? Where will our artists come from? University does not offer skills based fine arts courses - their practical teaching is less than one third of the old TAFE courses

Lesser quality with exorbitant fees? Who will our skilled workers be in the future? Where will our artists come from? Who will offer quality, affordable, skills based fine arts courses? - University cannot offer the same level of teaching at all - their practical skills teaching is less than one third of the old TAFE courses

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because an unskilled, uneducated society will be a disaster. Would you like your tradespeople to have learnt their skills online and have no bedded down knowledge? Fine Arts and

creative courses also need funding as it makes for a richer cultured societyâ€¦New South Wales is going backwards if not providing a well skilled well cultured society for the future

Submitted by

Catherine Joel of Woolwich

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, , of randwick make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2031.

I teach hundreds of TAFE students every term, who go on to graduate to make a valuable contribution to society.

We need a government educational institution to maintain standards of our workforce, that is recognised and respected resting on the strength and high standards of its history in Australian education

The majority of my students are people who are committed and serious about study and entering the workforce. Without TAFE many would have become long-term unemployed and unskilled with nowhere to go.

Navitas English school where classes of over 30 students are crammed into

classrooms to compete over one teacher. Teachers are much less qualified.
University language schools charge exorbitant prices for their courses, making them only accessible to the wealthy.

Job losses are directly affecting my TAFE right now. Students are being turned away because of lack of classes. The demand is huge but the public provider is not providing!

see above

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because without TAFE Australia cannot have a respected and decent education sector for industries such as Hospitality and Trades to name only two. These are vital industries for a strong economic future.

Submitted by

of randwick

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Dale BARRY, of MYRNIONG make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 3341.

1. Recently completed a VET in Schools certificate to assist my teaching of Cert. courses at our College.
2. My bother completed his electrical trade course (theory) at a tafe college.
3. My wife completed a library AV assoc. dip. course at a TAFE college.
4. My son is completing a Cert IV in disability through a TAFE college
5. My daughter has completed a Cert.course in Faskion at a TAFE college

TAFE provides strong/up-to-date courses for participants to be trained, ready for the workforce.

Has provide me with addition skills/knowledge to deliver VET programs within my

school

Not living in a big area, students able to go to TAFE to gain additional skills without going to university etc.

Yes, most are interested in payments for courses by Govt. funding - poor assistance for students studying. Courses tend to be delivered by work booklets rather than quality lecture/hands on approach.

I am aware, through the media and through our College's careers co-ordinator that availability of courses/cost of programs have changed significantly over the last 2 years or so.

1. Classes offered reduced
2. Courses offered reduced
3. Cost of courses significantly increased
4. Lack of study support lacking
5. Connections to workplaces decreased

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the education and skill training for Australians is essential for this country to produce workers that are competitive with the rest of the world.

Submitted by

Dale BARRY of MYRNIONG

Sunday 14th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Beris Derwent, of Kempsey make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a TAFE Counsellor, in the postcode of 2440.

I am an employee of Kempsey TAFE, and have witnessed at first hand the important role that TAFE has played for the majority of students on my campus. TAFE has a professional support team(counsellors, disabilities consultants, librarians and learner support) that form an important resource in the recovery(from mental illness, substance abuse, domestic violence, gaol, homelessness) of many of our disadvantaged community members. It is a vital part of the existing community support agencies. Being part of that support team, I have witnessed lives being turned for the positive, meaning that people are able to rejoin the community and play a role either in work, or in their personal, social and community relationships.

TAFE provides quality education. Its teachers and support staff ensure that students

are given every opportunity to succeed-but with strict adherence to course and assessment requirements. TAFE shouldn't be about making money(which is what is happening now in order to survive)Its staff are passionate and committed to education and its vital role in the local community.

I have seen many early school leavers who have re engaged with education after terrible experiences at school. After enrolling at TAFE some have gone onto university. Most however continue on to complete a vocational course. I have seen a mature aged student enter a basic literacy and numeracy course leave TAFE with a Diploma in Community Services and complete a uni degree.

It used to be and was very successful. Now we are in competition with private providers in which it seems the bottom line is cost. NCTAFE lost 80% of it's literacy and numeracy programs to private providers who had no infrastructure(a class room on the back of a truck), lowly paid teachers etc and more importantly no PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS for these students who are the most vulnerable in our community. Our Visual Arts course is now full fee paying and has been renamed ART FOR THE RICH

Yes! One of my students took a very ethical stand and refused to be assessed by a local private provider as she felt that the training was inadequate rushed and basically "tick and flick". She felt that a Cert 4 TAE from this organisation was meaningless. This same organisation sent its managers and their wives on a "professional development" holiday to Cairns!! Many teachers complain at the lack of required knowledge of students who come to TAFE after receiving a qualification from a private provider.

We have already lost 1/3 of our full time teachers. We have no idea what courses will run in the future and this makes educational decisions difficult for our students and

prospective students. Prospective students are being turned away because we have insufficient courses to offer. Frontline staff now see management as following a neo conservative agenda, forgetting our role in equity and social justice in our community. They are seen to be colluding with the government for their own personal gains. There is an enormous resentment towards management. Morale amongst staff is at an all time low! I fear for the mental wellbeing of remaining staff who have to take on huge workloads after staff have been made redundant. This is after having survived a heartless and brutal review process.

The state government's TAFE cuts have already impacted enormously. The week that Andrew Stoner opened the Mercedes Benz Fashion week, NCTAFE sacked all their full time fashion teachers with a over 150 years experience between them. Many of the designers and their staff at these fashion awards would have been TAFE trained. Classes everywhere have been cut and there is now a lack of educational support for struggling students. Teachers teaching courses online have been told to have NO CONTACT with their students!

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because, having witnessed the appalling results of privatising the employment agencies, education is now going in the same direction. Everyone has a horror story of private providers ripping students, the community and the government off! TAFE is a vital part of communities and it should be able to continue to offer professional high quality teaching and support systems. Cut funding from TAFE in Kempsey and we may as well extend the gaol.

Submitted by

Beris Derwent of Kempsey

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Luciana Todd, of Canberra make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a trainer, in the postcode of 2602.

Yes, I attended TAFE when I was younger and it was a complete waste of time and taxpayers money. The trainers were sloppy, the material was dodgy and it took soooooo long to complete.

I had better experiences at private training organisations. Less government funding and fee for service seems to bolster commitment to excellence from both the organisation and the learners. Everyone wanted to be at the training because they were paying for it.

No

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...I am stuck with substandard training.

NEVER

Don't care.

I go with quality as opposed to making savings.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is continued to be put up to compete in an even playing field and stopped from ruling the market because they are government funded.

Submitted by

Luciana Todd of Canberra

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Fay Davidson, of Maylands make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Senior Project Officer, in the postcode of 6051.

I finished high school at 16 in 1977. I did not complete my TER, or have any high school qualification. In 1980 I enrolled in a diploma of Cartography at Wembley TAFE and worked for the Western Australian Government as a Drafting Assistant. I received my qualification and gave birth to my first child.

TAFE installed in me, and my family all the qualities of lifelong learning.

Every time technology has changed, or the workforce requirements have changed over the last 30 years, I have returned to TAFE to update my skills and improve my employability.

I have completed many short courses including computing packages, maths,

bookkeeping/accounting along with many community courses - healthy lifestyles, cake decorating, languages (French, Italian), Marriage Celebrant Certificate, flower arranging.

yoga, Senior First aid.

I love being able to learn in an inclusive and friendly environment, Everything I have learned has value added to my work, my family, my volunteer work.

When I was at school it was common for people to leave at 15 with only year 10 education. Some girls stayed an extra year and did typing. If you did year 12 and couldn't get a Commonwealth scholarship you couldn't go to uni unless you were really rich.

It is ridiculous to think that those of us who are barely 50, could be getting through life on only the meagre amount of formal education they received up to the age of say 16.

People have to receive lifelong education and training in order to be productive and to be where their labour is needed the most.

I live in Perth, but I really need on-line courses.

Yes. I recently completed a certificate in Marriage Celebrant from an "apparently" approved provider, but by the time I had completed the course, the Australian Training Approval Authority had decided that the course did not meet the requirements of the Attorney General.

this meant that the private provider had taken large sums of money from me and my 13 class mates (approx \$1000 each) for a course that did not actually meet the

requirements for becoming a marriage celebrant.

I think that is terrible.

There is a reduced range of offerings and times of offerings. Leading to a reduction in numbers of teachers and staff.

There is a reduced range of offerings and times of offerings. Leading to a reduction in numbers of teachers and staff.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the TAFE sector keeps Australia hopeful. TAFE means that there is a way for people to change their lives and become engaged in the community, to live more rewarding and productive lives. Education is the melting pot, it is the only way to move our society forward and upwards.

Submitted by

Fay Davidson of Maylands

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Serena Saldinger, of Cooloongup make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Community Supprt Worker, in the postcode of 6168.

After raising my children I decided to return to school, at the time TAFE was the only educational option available to me. Without my TAFE qualification I would not have been able to advance myself and my education.

Tafe develops vocational skills, you are work ready when you finish your qualification. TAFE uses current industry training, they have work experience options and they have "labs" or work environments on site to practice in.

Without TAFE I would still be stuck unable to afford to pay school fees anywhere else.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...When I lived in the country

TAFE was the only educational option around for hundreds of kilometres. And having connection to the telecentres meant I could study and use internet etc.

I also studied Lab science which cost me hundreds of dollars, yet when complete I was not classes as qualified enough without a TAFE completed qualification!

I have noticed budget cuts affecting courses and campus closures, also the cost of courses is increasing as are student fees.

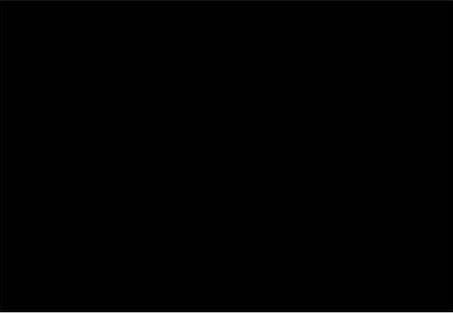
Classes are being cut, courses are being clustered together, increasing pressure on students and lecturers.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€without TAFE many Australians will remain uneducated unable to afford education and underskilled.

Submitted by

Serena Saldinger of Cooloongup

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, John Hopkins, of Elmore Vale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 55 years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2287.

did an apprenticeship with TAFE then some years later returned to TAFE as a full time teacher.

retired from TAFE after 33 yrs full time.

currently work as a part time casual teacher where I teach 2 days per week enjoy my teaching of apprentices very much

uses teachers with many years of experience in trade areas to educate the next generation of tradespeople

live in Newcastle area my days as a student are over

yes much so. hunter vtec is an accredited RTO but students who move from there to tafe nsw to continue studies are appalled at the standard of tuition recieved and the lack of equipment available.

still no one fails as all students seem to pass there but many struggle with the high standard at tafe,

total attendance time has been reduced to save costs and consumable spending has been reduced resulting in less equipment to teach with

affected morale in sections as many teachers were already doing more with less and have now been kicked in the guts while down

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because education of apprentices is essential to maintain the high standard of training that australia is recognised for world wide.

stop treating education as something that can be wound down by reducing funding.

private providers do not have the same interests in apprentices.

the passion held by tafe techers will never

Submitted by

john Hopkins of elermore vale

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, clarence oliver, of maryborough make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a fitter, in the postcode of 4650.

without tafe i would not have got to where i am today.my 5 year apprenticeship would not have happened.

i learnt a lot at tafe,which helped me through my apprenticeship

being guided by good teaching to achieve what you nwant.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...our young have not got that kick start in life to maintain our manufacturing.

no i havent compared

only in maryborough the old tafe closed,yrs later a new one bilt but i think it is standing idle.

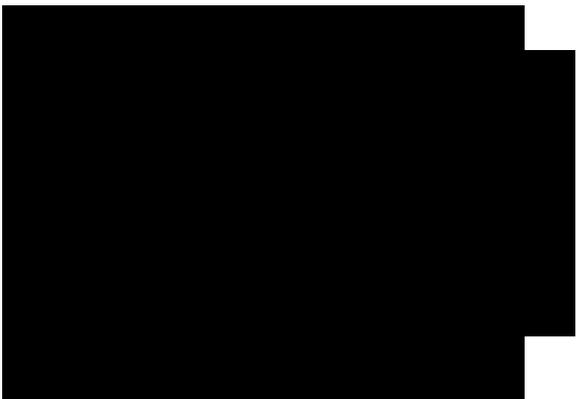
as above

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€œour future of our young in getting the trade skills they want to continue.

Submitted by

clarence oliver of maryborough

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Denise L. CLAIR, of Strathmore make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

RE: National TAFE Inquiry

As an trained and experienced, [unemployed] Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) Teacher for Secondary Education and TAFE, a member of Australian Education Union (AEU) and Independent Education Teachers Union (IEU), the lack of programs through government budget cuts, teacher redundancy and pay disputes that would constitute potential employment for many qualified teachers who currently do not have teaching employment has become a serious concern for myself and many students who are not being served because of TAFE programme elimination and/or cost prohibitive fees for programmes that do remain.

I not only have an interest in TAFE revival and sustainability in Education Australia™ from a personal perspective, but I also believe that if we do not continue

to encourage further education at ALL levels, Australia will continue to fall sharply behind world powers in many areas that require expertise, training and of course, education to be the best nation this Commonwealth Nation can be.

Since not all students are able, for one reason or another, to complete training at either Public High School or Private High School, it is imperative that everyone is given the opportunity to gain an education or a 'VOCATIONAL TRAINING' through a TAFE or equivalent as a pathway to either employment opportunity or University should that person have the funding, self-esteem and support from community to improve and increase their skill-level.

I can attest that I am one of those people. For too many years, I was told that I was not bright enough to go to university, there was not money to attend and I should just "be satisfied" if I could get 'a job'. I left the Public High School I was attending and took up a 'trade' at a 'Vocational Training' Institute [where they generally sent the 'dumb' kids] who were not expected to continue higher education.

Not only did I thrive in the vocational environment, but I was inspired by the teachers there to continue education. It was, unfortunately, not until far later that I was able to do that, as I had fallen into the 'TRAP' of belief in what my previous teachers and Counsellors had told me: That I could not achieve beyond gaining a "vocation".

Of course, that was total rubbish. Since raising two children, I have returned to higher education. Obtaining three Associate Degrees, a Certificate IV, a Bachelor of Art Degree, a Graduate Diploma of Secondary Education and currently a Master's Degree Candidate, I see that my pathway to higher education could have been shorter and smoother with positive support. I encourage the shorter path be encouraged for students who will be getting an education today.

I only state the personal references to emphasise a point and as someone who has worked directly with a 'lower-socio-economic' group of 'marginalised people'™ and has been one of 'THOSE PEOPLE'™. Many at the Secondary High School level have PROMISE of their personal potential but are discarded as the ones who cannot learn. TAFE would be the answer that would motivate them into success.

TAFE Education allows the non-main-stream-learner to be shown how to use their talents in a productive manner. Hands-on training that incorporates an Individualised Learning Program [ILP] for their best understanding. Once the TAFE Student sees how successful they can be, their motivation increases with that self-esteem and soon they are a working, productive part of/and contributing to society and their community. This pays back to the community by eliminating the need for one more person to be at Centre Link for their pay instead of working for an employer or in a self-employed trade situation, by allowing self-support and financial self-sufficiency.

PLEASE GIVE FUNDING TO EDUCATION at all levels.

TAFE is an important pathway to success that should be given the attention to programmes and funding to assure continuing TAFE programmes at affordable cost to those who need these valuable training options.

I SUPPORT TAFE FUNDING and encourage the state and federal parliament to see a high value in supporting TAFE Programs. Australia relies on a future of educated people to remain a strong, viable nation.

Kind regards,

Denise L. Clair,
Victorian Institute of Teaching, Registered Member Teacher;
Vice-President Programmes, Business and Professional Women Melbourne
North-West;
Australian Education Union Member (AEU);
Independent Education Union Australia Member (IEUA);
Attorney-General Appointed Registered Civil Marriage Celebrant; and
Concerned Citizen of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Submitted by
Denise L. CLAIR of Strathmore
Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Barrie Eggleston, of Taranganba make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retiree, in the postcode of 4703.

I was made redundant at age 60 and, as a journalist I had used computers for many years, but I was not skilled in Microsoft programs. I found several community groups that could use my skills but I needed to upgrade my word processing abilities. I enrolled at TAFE Rockhampton campus and the staff were brilliant and patient in guiding me through the courses. Consequently I put those abilities to work in IT with a community radio station and a tourist attraction.

No

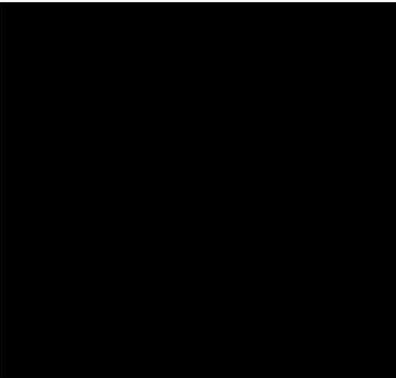
I gave a relative who works at TAFE Rockhampton who has spoken of a reduction in staff numbers and the number of courses offered.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because for many people TAFE is an excellent alternative, or the only alternative, to a university degree. Many school students now benefit from a school-based apprenticeship which is channeled through a TAFE college.

Submitted by

Barrie Eggleston of Taranganba

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Peter Sturesteps, of Holder make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Surveillance Shift Managerr, in the postcode of 2601.

During the late 80's to early 90's I studied various electronic courses finishing with TV and Video Servicing.

I undertook these studies to enhance my work place capabilities. At the time I was employed as Head Technician at Belconnen Ten Pin Bowl.

After completing these courses I was able to secure a position with TPG as Production Manager for their technical facility in Phillip.

I was successful in that role for 3 years.

I then secured a position overseas, Denmark as Chief Technical Advisor for Seaport Funcenters, overseeing the technical facilities of 4 centres and assisting two others.

During my tenure in Europe which was 10 years, I worked in many countries, including Greenland, Russia and the Faeroe Islands.

Without my studies at TAFE, I would not have progressed past the position I held at the time of commencing my studies. Of that I am sure.

While overseas in Denmark, I had the opportunity to assist someone complete their studies with the IB world wide colleges.

After this she commenced studies in Denmark Uni, doing architecture.

During this period I returned to Australia.

Where upon Viktoria continued studies in Dk.

After a period of time, she came to Australia and commenced a Diploma in Advanced Building Design and Construction at Reid TAFE ACT.

She completed this course and undertook a position with Colin Stewart Architects.

Viktoria now works for Rock Constructions in Fyshwick and is married and currently applying for her Australian Citizenship.

None of these two stories would have happened without the courses offered by TAFE or CIT.

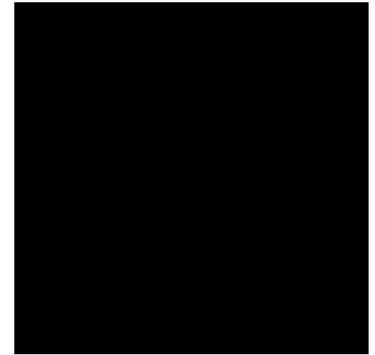
Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦!

Submitted by

Peter Sturesteps of Holder

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, John Browne, of Shorncliffe make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Southbank Institute of Technology, in the postcode of 4101.

I am a TAFE teacher at Southbank Institute of Technology and completed my apprenticeship in a specific trade. I have recently been on industry release and seen the technology changes with digital and the need to provide different delivery strategies.

Technology has changed our delivery and we deliver on the job and off the job. There are students with different abilities to self direct their learning and those who need cognitive support. One thing I have learned over the 24 years in TAFE is both types of students can end up as high achievers in the workplace. Multi-skilling and providing a range of skills which can support employment in a number of areas and diverse the

companies opportunities in gaining work to guarantee employment in the future.

TAFE has provided the opportunity for mature apprentices to gain employment skills required now and a future to learn new digital technology. Building blocks which meets the needs of individual students to learn and diversify in a number of career skills.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means... I deliver training from Mt Isa to Cairns by using technology such as Blackboard which provides the opportunity for online learning in the workplace. There is still the ability to learn in a face to face situation if the student needs are better served.

I have no problems with private colleges delivering practical skills on the job but I believe the underpinning knowledge is not the same level which has been developed by the TAFE sector.

Budget cuts have meant reduce staff and the need to develop quality online resources has been affected. Student numbers have been reduced as the industry heads into new technology but the industry still requires staff who have the skills to make a viable contribution to the workforce.

Classes have been cut because the numbers are not viable but there are students who need learning support. Where possible, if onsite training is not suitable than look at the feasibility of composite classes.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because! Where thin markets are making industry delivery commercially unviable than quality delivery by private or public RTO'S should not be a competition where dollars are wasted.

Submitted by

John Browne of Shorncliffe

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Lea Quinn-Jones, of Nunawading make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a housewife, in the postcode of 3131.

My son currently attends TAFE college. He has a mild learning disability and TAFE currently offers him the chance to learn skills that will help him make it in the world. Without these courses there are virtually no opportunities for him to learn in a safe environment the skills that are necessary to earn a living for himself. He does not require "special education" nor does he qualify for it. He is one of those who, if not for TAFE and the courses they offer (or in some cases used to offer, since some have already been cut) then he would just fall through the cracks.

TAFE colleges teach real skills, and are taught by real teachers and specialists in their field. All too often the commercial colleges that are around teach only basic skills and do not concentrate on making sure that the students understand the work they are

doing, they just lead them through the course to get to the end.

As previously indicated, mainstream high schools did not have the ability to help with my son and his friends, whereas TAFE had specific courses aimed towards their particular problems and helped them get to where they needed to be get into the workforce. I am hoping that TAFE is still able to offer these courses in a few years when my younger son needs them as well.

Speaking from personal experience I know that the co-workers that I had that were trained in private colleges did not have the experience or as thorough a level of training as those of us who did a full apprenticeship with TAFE training. A lot of the time we ended up teaching them a lot of the skills on the job that we learned at college.

The budget cuts have directly affected the course my son is currently on, many of the activities and parts of the course have had to be trimmed back which is very sad to see. I am of course happy that the course itself has not been cut back entirely as several others have. I know of two boys who had enrolled in courses only to find that they have been cut and they now have nowhere to go.

Many of the courses that were previously offered have been either cut back or deleted completely. Teachers have been made redundant and we no longer have as many options as were there previously. This is particularly noticeable to us in the areas of special requirements etc. There are NO other options for kids like this who have either dropped out of the system or would drop out if these courses are not offered. Private colleges do not offer these opportunities.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because I think that the TAFE system works, it has educated many people who would otherwise not have

the trades and education to make something of their lives. I am one of them, I did an apprenticeship many years ago and went through TAFE to do it. Not everyone can afford a private college, and in many cases the courses that are offered are just not as thorough as a TAFE course is.

Submitted by

Lea Quinn-Jones of Nunawading

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Paula Watson, of Albury make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2640.

While I have my formal qualifications, I still use the tafe system to upgrade my hospitality qualifications for teaching as well as art skills for teaching yr 7.

Tafe has been a critical institution for both my professional and personal life. It is a cornerstone of access to high quality technical skills.

Tafe is vital to the whole community- it is not just high school students and apprentices who use it. It is the difference between having an educated community and having one that is merely 'trained' for a specific task.

My husband has used tafe to retrain, how else do you do these things and not continue to work. cutting out short courses is a disaster. there is now no where to do a pastry or

baking course in the whole region(Albury) without travelling hours to do so.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...everything to being able to develop skills for work as well as pursue personal interests. that cannot be underestimated as it contributes greatly to the economic benefit of a small regional area.

I have not dealt with any of these

Our local tafe is devastated, the art community is appalled at what has happened. It is a serious mistake to cut the arts as they contribute a lot more to society than is immediately apparent.

It is a disaster. We could lose talented staff and it will take years to rebuild.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦!

Submitted by

Paula Watson of Albury

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Nicole Blake, of Bundaberg make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Accredited Exercise Physiologist, in the postcode of 4670.

Having worked within the hospitality industry for over a decade it became apparent that as much as I loved working in the industry, it was not going to be a long term career for me. Shift work was taking its toll on me physically and I was adamant I was not going to retire as a 65 year old bar person.

I needed a change and a career that would be rewarding, sustainable and family friendly. I knew what I was passionate about but in order for me to turn it into a career I needed to study at a tertiary level. The problem was that I had not completed senior and did not have an OP or ranking that would enable me to apply for admission to a university course. This is where TAFE played an extremely important role in my life.

Not only did it enable me to obtain the ranking I needed to apply for an undergraduate program, it gave me the skills I would need to be successful at a university level. Through TAFE I learned to become a self-directed learner. I learnt skills that enabled me to study effectively as well as how to research and complete academic assignments to a high standard. TAFE prepared me for university and life as a mature aged student.

In addition to preparing me for university, TAFE was instrumental in making me employable in my late teens. As an early school leaver I had no real skills and I had no great desire to spend my days working behind a check-out or in a fast food outlet so I enrolled in a TAFE course. This particular course taught me all the skills I needed to successfully obtain employment as an administrative assistant with the formerly named Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage.

Essentially, without TAFE my life would be very different to the one I now enjoy and I would not have had the employment opportunities afforded me by attending TAFE. So personally, I feel that losing TAFE courses and training would have a significantly negative impact on the lives of many Australians of all ages as well as to the society we hope to support and improve. Unemployment will sky-rocket and we would lose many of the trades reliant on TAFE courses as part of apprenticeships.

I believe that TAFE is instrumental in its contributions to a smart and strong Australian workforce as it has not only afforded me personally with the skills required to be employable, it has also served to provide me with the skills required to successfully complete further study at a university level. Without TAFE I would not be where I am today...a university trained allied health professional working to improve the lives of individuals living with, or at risk of developing chronic disease and/or injury. Without TAFE I would not be making positive contributions toward lowering the economic and

physical burden of chronic disease at an individual and community level.

Having completed a Graduate Diploma in Learning and Teaching for Secondary schools I have seen first hand the significant difference TAFE has made on the lives of many young students. Without TAFE these young people would be lost in the system, reliant on welfare or dead-end menial and unsatisfying jobs. TAFE has provided those students who are unable, or with no desire to attend university the opportunity to learn valuable life and industry relevant skills. They are able to choose courses that are not catered for in the curriculum such as agriculture or childcare. Additionally, TAFE is a positive learning environment and for the many students who struggle in the formal education system TAFE provides these learners with the opportunity to participate in a learning environment much more conducive to their style of learning and their interests. It allows them to take responsibility for the direction their learning and career path takes and puts them in touch with educators who are passionate and specialists in their field.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means being able to learn the necessary and relevant skills of the industries that support our community. As Bundaberg is a region of low socio-economic advantage losing TAFE courses and funding would result in even higher unemployment and greater socio-economic disadvantage for many individuals and families.

Not particularly as there are no private colleges that I am aware of in our region. Bundaberg is heavily reliant on the local university campus and its limited number of employment and industry relevant courses as well as the TAFE to educate our citizens so that they may become useful and positively contributing members of our community.

Unsure to be honest, but I do believe a number of courses have been cut at our TAFE

Not sure

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because without it unemployment will continue to rise in our region and we will continue to lose the economic contributions employable citizens make to the community. Many young people leave the region because of a lack of industry and training. TAFE helps bridge the gap for students who struggle in the formal learning environment of the education system and provides them with the skills they need to be employable and to make positive contributions to our community

Submitted by

Nicole Blake of Bundaberg

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Colin Leonard, of Arncliffe make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Welfare Support Worker, in the postcode of 2205.

I have studied several subjects at TAFE over the years. It has provided the fundamentals needed for me to advance not just in my current career, but in previous careers.

I have reached a point in my current career after 20 years, where burn out is a very high risk and I am addressing another career change into photography. Unfortunately, at the moment, the costs of studying photography are extremely high and there are very few TAFE centers where I can study the subject. I am struggling to make the career change because I am having to become totally self taught. Many years ago, TAFE would have been able to teach me the fundamentals that I need, at an affordable cost that any average working man could afford. Now, further study is as far away to me as a university degree is.

TAFE is fundamentally a technical, practical base learning option. From industrial apprenticeships to languages, to office skills, it has its roots in developing coal-face work skills.

The level of education that TAFE provides is required for industry, but also allows a student to learn enough of the fundamentals of the subject to advance onto further, higher levels of study in any given subject. Many students who could otherwise be exceptional at some area of study may never have a chance to find out if TAFE is not available at an affordable scale.

Many years ago, I was assaulted at work (I was a taxi driver and laborer). The end result of this assault was damage to 9 vertebrae.

Thanks to TAFE, I was able to re-skill myself and found work as a laboratory technician.

As my injury has deteriorated over the years, I have had to re-skill myself from laboratory technician to welfare worker.

I now find that I must make a career move again and I am looking to TAFE to help with that if I can afford to.

I went to school in a regional area. It was here that I was injured and found that I needed to re-skill myself if I wished to remain in the work force.

TAFE was the only option available as I could not afford full time university study because of having to work to put food on the family table.

No, I have only ever looked to TAFE for my further education.

I can no longer afford to study. The fundamental courses that I need to begin re-skilling myself are more than I can afford in the current economy.

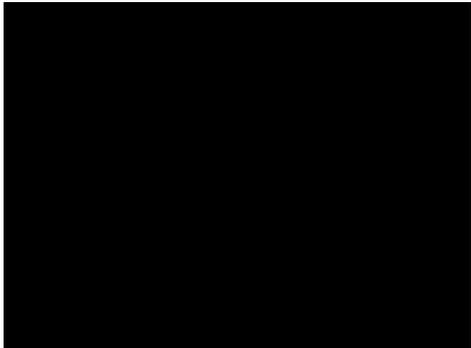
The cost of studying photography is so high at the moment that I can't attend TAFE. I am having to self learn photography in the hope that I am able to skill myself up enough to make a career change.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because losing TAFE means losing skilled, talented workers from the work force. It means stopping workers from improving their employment situations and accordingly, lives.

Submitted by

Colin Leonard of Arncliffe

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Ken Dietz, of Booral make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a seaman, in the postcode of 6714.

I am a Coach and Motor Body Builder by trade. I attended college at South Brisbane Technical College in 1972 to 1974. I went on to do post apprenticeship studies at Eagle Farm Tech and Yeronga Tech in "A Grade Welding". This lead the way to when I join the merchant navy as an engine room attendant of which I have been in this industry for over 30 years. I also attended the Australian Maritime College in Launceston in early 1989 to improve my skills as a seaman.

I believe without TAFE, young Australians will be deprived of skills and a trade that will support them the rest of their lives. Without skilled tradesmen, Australia has to import the skills from outside Australia which will eventually cost young Australian jobs.

As a tradesman, I have always had something to fall back on. I use the skills I learned

at college everyday of my life and has helped me teach others my skills and experience and I am still learning from others as well.

My concerns are that if TAFE are under funded and courses are unavailable, young Australians and Australia will pay the price now and in the future. Australia at present is lacking in many ways of skilled tradesmen. This has to be turned around.

My second youngest son works on Curtis Island in the Gladstone region and wished to do an adult apprenticeship as a Boilermaker. He was very disappointed that the local TAFE didn't have any courses in this field and Gladstone is an expanding industrial city. I do not know if funding has been cut in this area. It is not a good look for an industrial town like Gladstone or any town that need these tradesmen.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦Without skilled tradesmen, Australia has to import the skills from outside Australia which will eventually cost many young Australian jobs.

Submitted by

Ken Dietz of Booral

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, shane haselden, of lismore make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a mechanic, in the postcode of 2480.

i am a mechanic by trade completed my apprenticeship in 1989 started in lismore tafe for my first year then went on to bald hills tafe in qld to do block release as i was a motorcycle mechanic and this tafe offered specific motorcycle training which turned out to be such a benefit as we had hands on training in such things that my employer did not do in the workshop i did my apprenticeship in for example frame straightening as it turned out one employer purchased a frame straightener and as i had done this in tafe was the only one that had the experience to use it thanks to my tafe training i have also had the same experience with fibreglassing and many other experiences that i had gained through tafe that had helped me in future in my trade that i would not have had the opportunity to have learned if i had not gone to tafe as the workshop i did my apprenticeship in specialised in only one brand of motorcycle so my learning

experience would have been very limited if it had not been for tafe Myson has just recently completed a heavy vehicle mechanics apprenticeship in our local council workshop went to tafe for his first year but as his employer wanted him to do in house training which meant his tafe teacher came to him once a week he has never had alot of components apart or seen how the internals of most components work as his friends who got to go to tamworth tafe have done and learnt so i believe he has missed out on a great deal of experience that could only been taught to him in a tafe situation as most workshops are limited by what they can teach an apprentice by what work comes into their workshop so to say you dont need tafe organisations is like saying we dont need to train our apprentices properly full stop

as above

i was on a job in west wyalong in nsw and in order to progress from a trades assistant to a welder i had to go to tafe as this was a fly in fly out position i had no way of doing the tafe at home as i was only home for one week a month so i approached the west wyalong tafe and thanks to their flexibility and being able to put me in night welding classes i was able to go to tafe after work at night and got my welding tickets

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...i am going to do a trade upgrade this year to a heavy vehicle mechanic i am in the process of finding out what i have to do

have no experience with private colleges

have not been to tafe latley

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦the

future of our trades men and women are counting on it to be trained to the best ability
to give them a head full of experience that they need to fullfill their daily tasks
successfully safely and be professional

Submitted by

shane haselden of lismore

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Julie Tidy, of Cheltenham make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a integration aide, in the postcode of East Bentleigh.

Both my children chose University, not all can/want to do so. We need TAFEs as another education option.

Helps some to gain apprenticeships, diplomas, or even improve English skills to gain employment.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

cuts to courses, loss of jobs, which will lead to further job loses in regional areas.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need education options outside of Universities, remember some clever government closed out Tech schools.

Submitted by

Julie Tidy of Cheltenham

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Shirlyn Dellit, of Oakey make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a TAFE Teacher, in the postcode of 4350.

I am currently working within TAFE as a teacher and I personally believe TAFE has a lot to offer as the public provider of vocational education. Industry and other clients/students past and present value the connection they have/had with TAFE towards meeting their needs.

TAFE has the best standing towards researching and developing programs now and into the future to meet industry and personal needs. Due to TAFE's size and networking capability and use of technology and the ability to be flexible to meet clients needs is how TAFE contributes to a smart and strong Australian workforce.

I personally have assisted individuals to achieve through being flexible. Within a class or non class structure.

I live in a regional area through TAFE is not the only provider of vocation education programs. Though what makes TAFE stand out from the rest is its ability to meet the clients needs with in reason. For example: Technology has greatly assisted with the delivery of programs especially with regional/remote client/s though with the ability to offer on or off site training does give TAFE the edge over other providers of quality training/assessment. Its all about the relationship/communication with the client. Less funding will greatly impact on delivery and could affetct the relationship with the client.

In my view poorly regulated private providers means poor quality training/assessment (tick and flick). The problem is with payment on results/outcomes the push has been on the assessment not the training. I know at TAFE quality does mean something. Training (the educational side) is very critial/important followed up with the assessment process.

Within the TAFE sector currently their is a push to trim if spare capacity is available which is hard when their is no spare capacity. Current/future reforms will only make it harder to provide quality vocational educational programs.

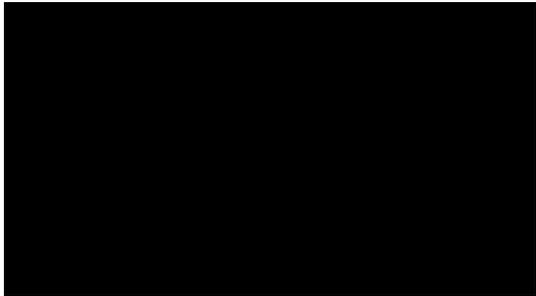
Pressure is on with firstly the public sector cut backs and now and into the future the reforms that are underway for vocational education and TAFE will have an impact with program delivery. Staff are fearful and concerned with the direction taken and further towards the client/s firstly being able to gain the aproprate training needed at a reasonable cost.

TAFE is a known brand of quality vocational education and training. By being the public provider of vocational education and training with a large variety of programs allows all person/s to link to this large network to satisfy the needs therein.

Submitted by

Shirlyn Dellit of Oakey

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Elizabeth Try, of Lansdowne make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a TAFE teacher, in the postcode of 2430.

My son wanted to be an architect from the age of 5. In his last year of school circumstances impacted on him that precluded him from being accepted into University. Instead he went to TAFE for 2 years gaining an Assoc Dip in Architectural Technology. Not only did gain entry into University as a result, but he also had a year taken off his degree, saving money but also gained practical skills that were noted by lecturers and tutors that other students who didn't go through TAFE lacked. He is now completing his Masters Degree.

TAFE has been accessible by all Australians regardless of their background. It is an institution that was not elitist, exclusive or out of reach by average Australians. It is accessible by those who truly experience barriers to education. This means less

reliance on our welfare system and more empowerment for those who have previously been disadvantaged.

As a TAFE teacher of considerable experience I have seen numerous examples of students who have been disadvantaged throughout their lives due to abuse, trauma, poverty, disadvantage who have missed educational opportunities often through no fault of their own. These people have turned their lives around because of the opportunity to gain an education in an environment where they have been treated fairly and with respect. This has been a very empowering experience for many people I have seen and they have entered the workforce achieving beyond their own expectations to help others in need.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means young people don't have to leave the area to gain an education at least when they leave school. Others who don't have qualifications or who have to retrain have been able to retrain through the local campus as well.

I have seen examples of students who have studied through other RTOs and gained credit yet don't seem to have the skills even though they went through the course/units of study. Some of information provided by the students relate to limited hours of teaching, limited resource material provided and basically getting a qualification for little input. I have grave concerns in relation to some qualifications gained through other RTOs.

Visual arts and IT courses have been immediately affected. I myself have been a part time teacher for over 20 years, gaining temporary permanent status 2.5 years ago being told I would be made permanent in 2 years of my appointment. Now this promise seems to be fading as I have been told it is unlikely to happen in the near

future.

Public education is the backbone of our education system and the community know that TAFE provides a recognised strong education system for all. I am worried about the future education needs of our community.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because too many RTOs are urging their workers to obtain a Cert IV in Assessment & Training thinking they can deliver education. TAFE teachers undergo training, mentoring and have a proven track record. I don't believe the changes will be for the better but will be disastrous for the community.

Submitted by

Elizabeth Try of Lansdowne

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Katherine Nicholson, of INVERELL make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a TAFE Organiser for the NSW Teachers Federation. Prior to this role I worked for 10 years as a Head Teacher of Access and General Education at Inverell TAFE., in the postcode of 2360.

TAFE played a critical role in my life. I disengaged with school at 16. At 26 as a survivor of domestic violence and substance abuse I undertook my Higher School Certificate at Sydney TAFE at Ultimo. As a result of this course I was admitted into the prestigious Bachelor of Arts in Communication at the University of Technology in Sydney and became the first person in the history of my family to gain a university degree. Subsequently both my sons have engaged with TAFE, one to gain a maritime qualification and the other, supported by the TAFE disability unit, to gain his year 10 equivalent. Succeeding at the equivalent year 10 was critical for my younger son in a year where he confronted cardiac surgery. He has now gained an apprenticeship and

continues to be educated by the TAFE sector.

TAFE provides an extraordinary and comprehensive list of qualifications to Australians. TAFE delivers in traditional trades and in emerging industry areas. We cannot predict the skills that will be required to tackle the challenges of this century, climate change, transforming technologies, globalized economies and huge movement of people due to economic and political pressures. What we can do is intelligently provide a skill base for Australians. We can address the problem of low literacy and numeracy by working with communities via whole of government approaches and interagency based place strategies to raise communities out of dependency. The NBN provides a real opportunity to utilise technology as an effective educational tool to overcome geographical boundaries. We could educate for innovation and entrepreneurship, ensuring that even rural and regional communities could invent businesses they could conduct on the web to raise them out of dependency. TAFE provides such great support services and has a foot right across the country. Teachers generally come with great industry and life experience and are very effective networkers bringing together varied resources to deliver 'real skills' to their students. If we let this public infrastructure wither and die we jeopardise our place in the Asian Century. What other public sector institution is ready and able to educate people in an emerging national crisis? I can't really see how a polyglot patchwork of private providers could deliver in a time of need. The Allen Consulting Report - The Value of TAFE reported that for every \$1 invested in TAFE, \$6 is delivered to the economy and in the bush that increases to \$6.40. As a researcher and educator in the TAFE space I undertook longitudinal research in 2008 upon my students to identify other measures of public value. As a starting point my students reported improved health, housing, ability to help their children with their homework, promotions and increased income. It's a no brainer.

As a teacher of Tertiary Preparation Certificate, which is a qualification in NSW that

provides a pathway to university I have seen many transformative stories. For example Mature Age Male students 28 years old, previously a sawmiller and sharefarmer, broke his back in a car accident and returned to study, travelling 100 kilometers each way in order to access Inverell TAFE. He is now a Podiatrist working in the bush. Mature Age Aboriginal woman, 35 years old, engaged for Career Education for Women, Year 10 equivalent, Tertiary Preparation Certificate and then was supported by the learning centre at Inverell TAFE to undertake a Bachelor of Visual Arts at Deakin University. Not only does she now have a career as an exhibiting artist, her success has provided a role model for younger people in her family who want to go to university now like their Aunty did. Mature Age woman, over 40, engaged to undertake Career Education for Women, thought she may be able to get a job as a cleaner when she began the course. Has been working at a pathologist as a venepuncture practitioner since the day her course ended, nearly 20 years ago.

I have been a teacher and head teacher at Inverell in the New England in NSW since 1995. TAFE is critical to a town like Inverell. Many people have no other access to education. Demographically the town is quite poor and surrounding towns like Tingha are extremely disadvantaged. TAFE also houses the UNE Access Centre for local people to undertake tertiary distance education. I am very concerned that budget cuts will jeopardise the actual existence of the TAFE campus and have heard new England TAFE Management express the view that smaller campuses will have to close if we are to continue to survive. As a head teacher of general education my budget was compromised from 1997 onwards. By 2006 it did not cover my full time teacher salary and I had to work 60-70 hour weeks writing submissions to try to gain funding to run programs like Baby Dreamers, a program teaching young parents to read to their baby, parent effectively and provide nutritious food to children. Inverell campus now has no Trades or Primary Industry provision making it very difficult to engage boys and leaving the town without avenues for vocational education unless they can afford to

travel. Many young people do not have cars, licences and some have preexisting debts to state revenue resulting from prosecutions as juveniles.

Yes, the most recent one that was brought to my attention involved a private provider delivering a Diploma in Community Welfare in a 6 week timeframe. They had enticed a student with a disability who had just completed a TAFE pathways course to go into debt to gain a qualification that will not deliver skills that any workplace could use.

New England Institute of TAFE has responded to successive governments cutting budgets by reducing what courses are available, by centralizing expensive trade delivery to a couple of sites, by pushing courses online that should actually retain a face to face component. New England has low levels of literacy and numeracy, low levels of people who have completed more than a Certificate II level, a geographically dispersed population including as mentioned before sites of significant disadvantage, including Boggabilla and Toomelah. Teachers in New England have always gone above and beyond the call of duty to look after their students but they are almost at breaking point as the workload, particularly around compliance, and the constant focus on budget cuts, has made their workplace very difficult.

In my experience, as we speak, TAFE teachers with amazing industrial expertise are being cut from the NSW TAFE system. In New England TAFE this year, jobs will be cut because 2013 saw a \$2million cut, 2014 and 2015 will see another \$6million cut from the budget. This pales into insignificance compared with the budget cuts in the metropolitan area. North Sydney Institute is losing 91 jobs in the first round of cuts including teachers of Nursing. Western Sydney lost the expertise of 4 Adult Literacy Officers. Sydney Institute has deleted specialist multicultural support positions, and even a teacher of Mandarin and Cantonese and on the North Coast after the NSW Government's irrational removal of funding for Fine Arts, the Institute opportunistically

threw the entire Information Technology and Creative Industries Faculty into a restructure that has resulted in all full time Fashion teachers on the North Coast losing their jobs and IT teachers also. In Sydney the 4 Institute Directors are undertaking what they call the Metropolitan Strategy. This strategy involves rationalising delivery across the Sydney Metropolitan area. This will result in entire sections in places like Mount Druitt being closed. (Signcraft, Vehicle Painting and Panel). TAFE cannot survive what the NSW Government cynically call "Smart and Skilled".

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because a smart country invests in education for the poorest citizens. It gives a hand up and a fair go to those who need it. It looks to the future and positions the nation to seize the opportunities and challenges by ensuring we have the skills to engage in a globalized economy.

Submitted by

Katherine Nicholson of INVERELL

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Kathleen McDonald, of Portland make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Kindergarten Teacher, in the postcode of 3305.

I completed a Diploma of Children's Services in 1999. I attended TAFE fulltime over a two year period, completing 1 year at Northern Metropolitan TAFE and the second year at Wodonga TAFE.

I have worked for around 15 years in early childhood education around Australia.

My Diploma allowed me the opportunity to complete my Bachelor of Teaching (early childhood), while continuing to work fulltime.

There are many TAFE courses that contribute to the continued growth of Australia.

I decided to embark on a career in early childhood education, it was not a 'second chance', just simply something I wanted to do.

While I am currently living in South West Victoria, in an area that does not have a university, I did not study in this area.

When I began studying at TAFE, I moved away from home to complete my training. While living in Albury NSW, I study by correspondence through UNE to complete my Bachelor of Education, so I do believe that anyone can study regardless of where they live.

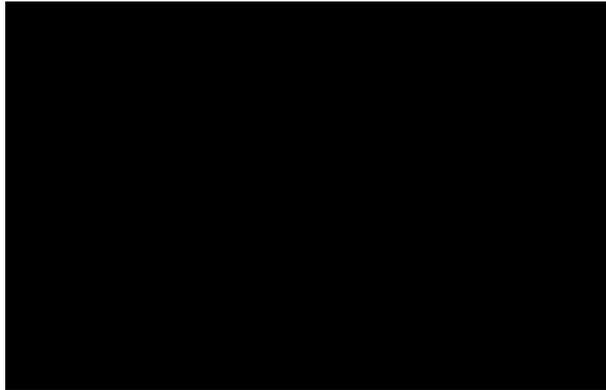
Portland TAFE appears to have had funding cuts, but I am not aware of the full details, so unable to comment fully.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because when I started at TAFE 15 years ago I had to pay for the entire course and resources myself. It appears to me, that over time there was a gradual increase in funding which allowed many individuals to engage in educational studies.

Submitted by

Kathleen McDonald of Portland

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, helen sanderson, of marrickville make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a just retired, in the postcode of 2204.

In 1987 1988 I took leave from primary school teaching to study fine arts at East Sydney Technical College. This was a time of great fulfilment for me having long awaited time to develop my creative skills in the area of art making. Subsequent to this I obtained full time work as a teacher of adult literacy and numeracy in Adult Basic Education across Sydney Institute first at East Sydney then Randwick and later part time at Ultimo. The art training later led to my doing further training as an art therapist a career I pursued for about 10 years in an aged care facility.

As an adult basic education teacher I witnessed students acquiring literacy skills some of whom had had no formal education. I saw students increase in written and verbal communication skills, form friendships, go on to further study, acquire the skills necessary to succeed in their studies, get jobs, and generally become happier and

more self confident. I was able to observe that tafe worked better for some students than school had and gave some of these students a necessary second chance at succeeding in life. I think that it was an important factor in students' wellbeing and led to their economic independence thus saving money on welfare.

Subsequent to working in tafe and as a result of my fine arts training I was able to do further training as an art therapist. I then worked with the frail aged and the elderly with mental health problems. All my experience as a teacher in tafe helped with my ability to work in the specialised therapy area, so I have tafe to thank for my people skills and my art skills.

I think tafe training can lead to students acquiring skills necessary for work

I have just dealt with the above briefly

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I believe there is a significant slashing of teaching programs and a downgrading of training of teachers where certificate 4 is more valued than a specialist degree in the teaching skills area

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because an educated population leads to a clever population able to make creative solutions into the 21st century which is changing rapidly. Education I believe is vital to the ability to think and reason and is also then vital to a prosperous just society.

Submitted by

helen sanderson of marrickville

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, John Wood, of West Woombye make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a data analyst, in the postcode of 4558.

Both my sons attended TAFE and gained valuable skills there

The idea of specialised training at TAFE matched with on the job experience is tried and true. It's a brilliant combination and TAFE does it really well.

I did a TAFE qualification myself after my degree and it gave me extra invaluable skills to help me gain employment.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means local kids can get a quality educational experience without having to leave home.

I know of private colleges that offer qualifications that cover the same work yet do it in half the time. I can tell you that the students aren't twice as good as TAFE students and I know that employers much prefer the TAFE product (this is in relation to disability support workers). The only reasonable conclusion to draw is that the private colleges are shunting the students through as fast as possible with no consideration given to quality of learning for the students.

There have been courses and staff cut. I know that ancillary staff have been cut forcing the teachers to do their own photocopying and basic administrative work. It is absolutely ludicrous to be paying a teacher to do photocopying and basic administration when you could get a junior to do it at half of the rate. The teachers could then do what they do best - teach.

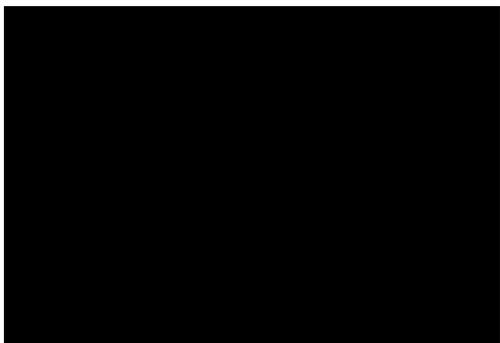
My wife works as a TAFE teacher and she has to do RIDICULOUS hours - often up until well past midnight preparing classes or marking work. She does as many hours at home (unpaid) as she does at TAFE and I am VERY concerned for her health. It would be worthwhile if at all possible, doing some statistics on how stressed how many of the teachers are. I know it's almost impossible to quantify, but people can't keep working at this level without burnout being just around the corner.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded. It provides a vital role in our educational process. It provides skilled tradesmen and other workers. Without it we are left in the hands of private providers whose only motivation is profit. That leads to situations like we saw recently in Victoria - poor quality training with students being ripped off. Besides the students losing out, we as a society are also robbed of potentially good workers who get disillusioned and quit.

Submitted by

John Wood of West Woombye

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Anita Moore, of Pascoe Vale Sth make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 3040.

The TAFE system was essential to the future of my 2 sons. Both completed apprenticeships through TAFE.

TAFE allows our current and future workers find an area where they can be supported, guided and taught a trade they want to use. Not all people want to work in an office, be a teacher or TAFE is opening a door to those who want it and importantly those whi need it.

Both my sons decided early in their secondary education that the formal setting of the secondary system was not for them, both for different reasons. Therefore TAFE was a viable, avoidable option.

N/A

Local TAFE over a number of years have had campus closures and/or reduced courses (or amalgamation of courses). This affects participants, trainers, students and employers.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is part of the future of Australia!

Submitted by

Anita Moore of Pascoe Vale Sth

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Steve Martin, of Shailer Park make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 4011.

Well I see young people dropped by the education system and have no where to go picked up by Tafe and are trained to a useful employment

Tafe trains and re-trains anybody young and old to suit the workplace place situation

Second third and so on if you fail an assessment you get to do a re-sit and if you fail that you get to do a supplementary. If they have trouble with reading, writing and arithmetic they can get help from special teachers that will work with these people so they can pass the assessments

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

All the time where the private providers basically go to the workplace drop off a workbook and expect the apprentice to fill it in then they come back in a couple of weeks check the workbook then sign them off, no teaching training occurs, so much for good training.

There less courses for unemployed, less night classes and certainly less community courses.

I think in Queensland we are about to see The Campbell Newman government slash and burn tack ticks occur in June/July with the working conditions off Tafe teachers being cut. We have just gone through an employment program taking on young tradespeople who take a pay cut to come into the service of teaching if these conditions get cut these new younger teachers will go back to industry - bang there goes our new skills bass.

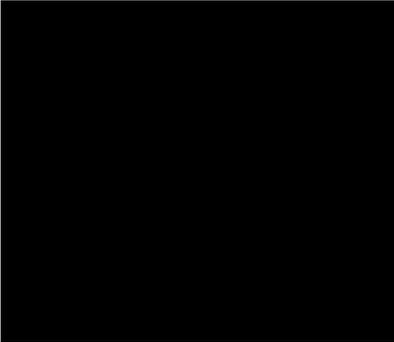
I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we have a skills shortage in this country and as the baby boomers retire there will be a huge skills shortage, this also goes for the skilled Tafe teacher workforce.

Tafe has always being the safety net for young Australians if there is no tafe there is nothing for these people but the un-employment line or working in McDonalds. Tafe provides a special place in our society good honest training for trades and trades people and pre-employment so young people can gain a successful career.

Submitted by

Steve Martin of Shailer Park

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, John Davis, of Orange make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a die setter, in the postcode of 2800.

I have done several courses over the years to keep my qualifications current, my wife just completed yet another course which directly gave her an opportunity to a career path which has improved our way of life and each of my three, now adult children have done several courses through TAFE. This system must be kept running the way it is now as this is important to everyone wanting an opportunity to continue to improve their skills and gain new ones.

My whole family has completed several courses enabling us to change career paths or start open up more opportunities within the same area of employment.

My wife has had a serious illness which seemed to end her career in nursing, however with the opportunity to complete a TAE 10 through TAFE, it has enabled her to

continue in the nursing sector as a TRAINER.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...I can continue to gain new competencies and give me every chance at the age of 53 to continue to advance myself within the industry I am in.

Yes in my area the TAFE teachers and staff are very worried about their jobs and this must be a poor environment in which to work.

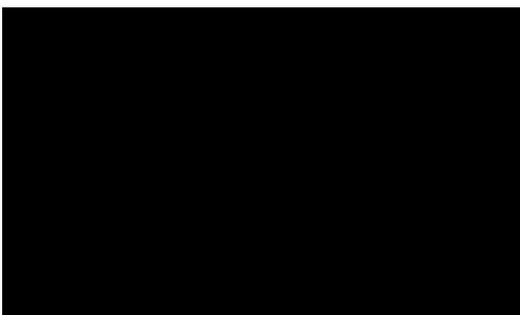
I have not done a course this year, so have not really had an opportunity to comment.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦I would like to see every Australian afforded the same opportunities that my family has been given.

Submitted by

John Davis of Orange

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Claire Atkins, of South Golden Beach make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a ceramic artist, in the postcode of 2483.

After high school I went to University where I completed my degree in Art Education, however, after graduation I wanted to continue studying ceramics part-time in order to specialise in studio ceramics. At the time University's were not interested in teaching students the skills required to become a ceramist so TAFE filled a real gap in my continued art education.

I had excellent tutors who were and still are leading Australian ceramic artists and it was affordable.

Not only was TAFE a means to continue my art education and gain specialist knowledge in ceramics not available at University, but it helped me during the years when I was not employed and I was raising young children.

I was diagnosed with severe post natal depression after the birth of my two sons and getting back into part-time ceramic study during that time was a major part of my rehabilitation.

It's important to point out that this was more than art therapy for me. For some people it would have been sufficient to attend a community run art organisation and paint by numbers or play with clay, but as a trained artist, having access to challenging and rigorous study with creative peers was what I required.

Looking back I realise that TAFE provided women who were at vulnerable stages in their careers, including disabled women, access to quality art education.

I now live in Regional NSW and I do have access to a university in Lismore, however, the skills that I require for my professional development are not available for study at the University. In addition increased fees at TAFE have made any further study for myself and other paying students cost prohibitive, it has also meant some courses could not run.

Funding cuts in TAFEs across the far north coast have already directly impacted my colleagues who were completing Diploma's and Advanced Diploma's in Ceramics at Lismore and Visual Arts at Kingscliffe TAFE.

Last week I learned that the Head Teacher of Ceramics in Lismore has been made redundant. He has built a dynamic and enviable ceramics department and it looks set to close.

I am concerned that I cannot find accessible courses in my particular area of ceramic study and that has a direct impact on my creative business. I am also concerned for hundreds of art students in the region like me.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because I am

concerned that students from all social and economic backgrounds have accessible and equitable arts education.

In light of the current funding cuts to the Creative Industries sector in TAFE, the NSW State Government clearly does not understand the cultural, economic and social benefits the creative industries bring to the people of NSW.

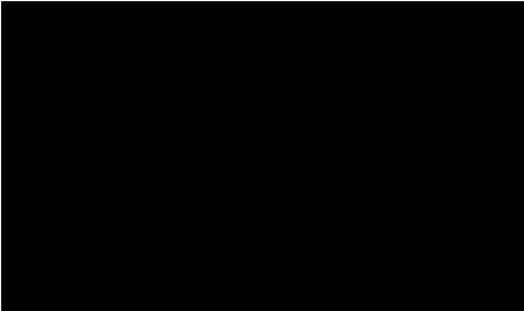
Under the State Government's policy I am particularly concerned for the future and availability of arts education in Studio Ceramics at TAFE.

In the long term, if the current funding policy remains, these cuts will seriously erode the future of Australian Ceramics.

Submitted by

Claire Atkins of South Golden Beach

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Malcolm Domars, of Maraylya make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Part-Time TAFE teacher, in the postcode of 2114.

I have been a TAFE teacher, both full and part-time for 45 years, during which time I have probably taught 10,000 students in Business Studies courses

TAFE provides a practical aspect to learning, in contrast to the academic approach of Universities

I cannot count the number of students enrolled in my courses after missing out on a primary education, or training for promotion in professional occupations.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means a reduction in available sources of tertiary education. On-line is not always suitable for some students.

I have been concerned at having to give credit for some qualifications under directed instruction, despite the students showing inadequate knowledge in oral examination.

Budget cuts have resulted in the face-to-face teaching hours being reduced in almost all courses, which will have damaging effects on slower learners.

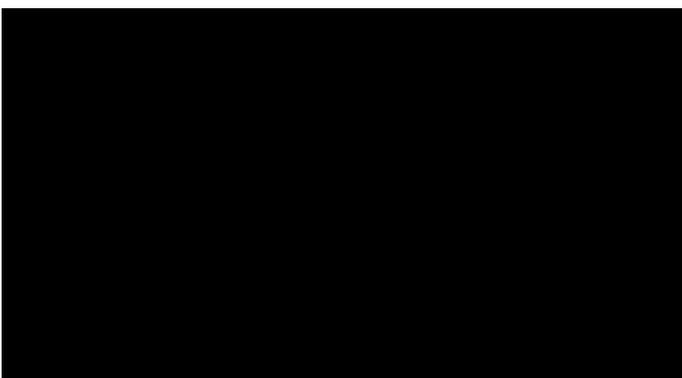
Over 45 years of service, I have noted that, in real terms, my salary, and that of full-time teachers, has decreased, yet the working (teaching) hours have increased. Penalties for evening teaching for full-time teachers has reduced from a 50% loading to the part-time hourly rate.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE has an established record of providing educational services in the highest tradition. Once lost and sold off, it will be extremely difficult to replace.

Submitted by

Malcolm Domars of Maraylya

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Kathy Brazher - de Laine, of Brukunga make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Chef, in the postcode of 5251.

I went to TAFE/Trade school as we called it back then and now I am going back to TAFE to study Food Science. Being a Chef is very physically demanding and you can only do it for so long (about 30yrs). By going back to TAFE and moving into a different area of food production, R&D or auditing I can continue to use the knowledge that I already have and learn new skills aswell.

I have already achieved a trade cert from tafe which has kept me in work for the last 30yrs and by going back to do more studies I will be able to move into a different area of my field and work for another 20yrs rather than move to a low payed job or move onto a disability pension because my body will be worn-out.

Tafe is giving me the chance to stay in the work force even after reaching the prime age for my profession by enabling me to take a side ways step rather than a backwards step.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...that people in my area have a chance to improve their lives and jobs.

Only once have I been to a private college and I was sent there by Workcover SA, I can't remember the name of the "College" , they taught 'workplace training and accessing cert 4' (may have been Commskill) it consisted of poorly planned classes and a mountain of photo copied print outs from out of date books that had no relivance to my profession.

YES the coarse that I started doing has lost it funding and now I have to do 2 diplomas to achieve the same result.

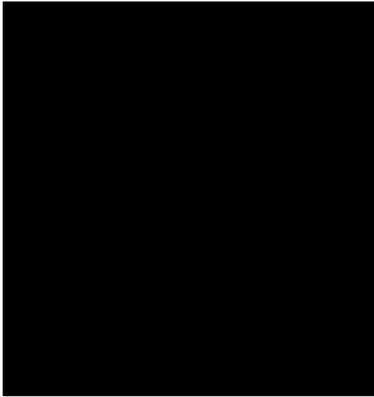
It is becoming over loaded with 'red tape' and the lecturers are spending more time filling out gov forms and less time with students. Some lecturers are sending one whole a day a week trying to find ways for their students to complete courses because the course they started has lost its funding.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦I want to keep working and I am sure that my children and grandchildren will want to be able to update their education so that they will be able to continue working in an ever changing workforce

Submitted by

Kathy brazher - de laine of Brukungu

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Mary Neil, of Mordialloc make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a tutor, in the postcode of 3195.

Both my daughters attended Holmsglen TAFE after completing VCE and gained a qualification in the Arts, building a portfolio and experience crucial to completing university degrees - one at Swinburne and the other at RMIT University. And one of the girls is currently studying at Chisholm to gain a Diploma of Art Therapy to complement the BA Fine Arts. I have completed short courses at TAFE to keep abreast of new technology.

TAFE provides vital tools to help people continue to learn and improve their skills. Short or long courses, part or full time, day or night - TAFE is flexible, courses wide-ranging and relevant. It is the practical and hands-on nature of TAFE courses that is invaluable to people wanting to stay up-to-date with fast moving technology and

research.

Both my daughters attended a local high school. The oldest daughter could not do art at VCE level because there was no art teacher when she was doing VCE! TAFE gave her the opportunity to follow her dream, prepare a magnificent portfolio and she is now a BA of Film and Television, Swinburne University after a year at Holmsglen and 2 years at Swinburne TAFE and a year at Swinburne University. If there had been no TAFE she could not have followed her dream and achieved her qualifications.

I have a friend who cannot finish her Professional Writing & Editing qualification because this course had disappeared from TAFE

The cuts are atrocious. There are less courses offered. Fees have increased and much of the vibrancy has been sucked from the system.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€if we are going to be a clever and skilled society there needs to be a choice of educational opportunities, especially practical upskilling that people can access at any stage of their lives. Lifelong learning will contribute to a smart educated community benefitting all Australians. We need affordable, flexible and relevant education - and TAFE can do this well if resourced properly.

Submitted by

Mary Neil of Mordialloc

Sunday 14th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Lisa Tzuntzurkas, of shoppers crossing make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 35 years old and work as a sales assistant, in the postcode of 3029.

My first job as a 17 year old was a clerical traineeship, I studied through the Sunraysia TAFE in Mildura. If funding is continually cut to TAFEs my children will not have opportunities to follow their dreams.

Where do governments think the next generation of tradesmen and women will come from? Keep cutting TAFE funding and there will be no new plumbers, electricians etc. Maybe thats why the 457visas are being pushed?

TAFE gave me my first and second chances at career changes. My brother was rejected by Universities and went to Tafe and got a diploma.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...means no opportunity for a real career.

Yes, usually filled with foreign students on special visas that won't use their skills in Australia, but will take them overseas!

out of pocket expenses so high kids have to give up on further education opportunities.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFES are the future for millions of people who may not want to go to university. or who cannot afford uni. TAFE also means lower unemployment. Education should be a Not For Profit organisation!

Submitted by

Lisa Tzuntzorkas of hoppers crossing

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Vicki Drew, of Narromine make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Technical AssistANT, in the postcode of 2823.

By attending at TAFE course back in 1996 I got back into the work force after having my 3 children. Because of the course I did I have been back at work 16 years

It helps people to develop skill in their areas of interest. I know of young people who are getting the knowledge to work in their chosen fields.

I did a course when I left school through at technical college as a secretary. After I had my children I went back to TAFE to update my knowledge which enabled me to get back into the work force.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means being able to get training in

many courses. As the university in our area only offers limited courses to the young people or older people wanting to re train.

not sure

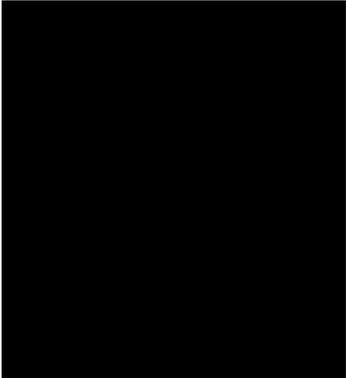
not sure as I have no children attending TAFE in our area.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because not all students have the marks or ability to go to university, and in some cases it is not possible to go to university but they may be able to go and do a TAFE course to give them the career that they desire.

Submitted by

Vicki Drew of Narromine

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Luana Storni, of WISHART make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a vocational teacher, in the postcode of 4122.

I migrated to Australia 24 years ago. When I wanted to return to the workforce after 6 years of family duties, I could not find a job, until I was recommended to complete a Certificate III in Business Administration at Yeronga TAFE in 1996. This training gave me the confidence to accept an offer to work as a tutor at TAFE. Since then I've completed the Diploma of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Vocational Education and Training and am now doing a Master of Accounting.

I couldn't have done that without my start at TAFE 17 years ago.

Everybody needs skills and TAFE is the right place to learn vocational skills. TAFE is excellent for people who are smart but have lost or haven't ever had confidence because the training is hands on and practical. Confident people are more useful in

any workplace, have better ideas and contribute more the economy than people who have no confidence.

TAFE has given me a second chance but I've seen many students, starting at TAFE, not knowing that they'll end up owning their own business or doing a degree at Uni one day.

TAFE opens the door for many people. It's a place where everybody can find a course that they can enjoy.

I don't live in a regional area, but my sister in law and her family live in Kingaroy. She and all of her children have done training at TAFE and they're all working and successful. People in regional areas need TAFE as everything else is far away.

I had a student who came to MSIT to do a Certificate III in Business Administration. When shopping around, she found that the same was offered in 10 weeks with a private provider that was offered at TAFE in 19 weeks. She chose MSIT as she said you can't possibly learn the same if you only get 10 weeks. And right she is... we cannot give people a Certificate III in 10 weeks and expect that they end up with the same skills as if they had 19 weeks for the same.

Cuts at MSIT have been so bad that the place is completely dysfunctional. Teachers and administration staff are exhausted and everybody is overworked, this leads to a lot of mistakes being made which leads to re-work and a lot of services not offered as nobody has time to do it. It's really bad, as a teacher, I feel sorry for the students and how they're being treated. We take their money, more than ever, but we don't have the time and the resources to help them learn. Shame on you, government for doing that.

All courses offered at Yeronga Campus have closed, a lot of courses are not offered at

Alexandra Hills Campus and people have to travel 2 hours on public transport to get to Mount Gravatt for their course. In some cases, classes are over-crowded at the beginning of the semester and students don't have access to a computer when they need.

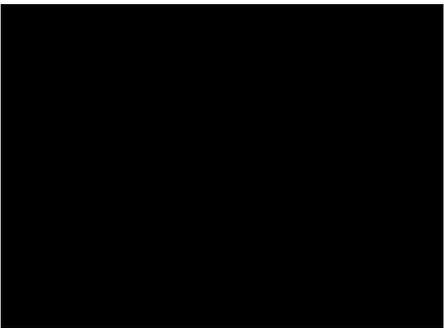
There used to be a job placement officer but the job has been cut.

A public, well-funded TAFE is very important as a lot of people need training at the grass roots. To ensure equity and an opportunity for everybody in Queensland we need a well-funded TAFE. TAFE helps many Australian gain confidence and become more successful people. Confident and successful people help the economy grow, they have better ideas, they are more innovative, they become hungry for more skills and knowledge, they become smarter. That's all good for the economy.

Submitted by

Luana Storni of WISHART

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Karen Fudge, of Eltham North make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a school administrator, in the postcode of 3095.

I went from school to a business studies course at TAFE to learn skills to go into the workforce. Going to TAFE gave me the confidence to find a good job.

I believe TAFE gives people skills and knowledge that enable them to enter the workforce in a timely manner when university is not an option and income is required.

I left school at the end of year ten and went to TAFE to a Business Studies course so that I could expediently enter the workforce. My family were not in a financial position to consider university or any other long term study and I felt the need to find a job to help pay my own way.

I went to TAFE in Nambour, Queensland where there weren't that many options for further study. TAFE offered me and my fellow classmates the chance to find better jobs than the average tourist destination type positions found around Noosa.

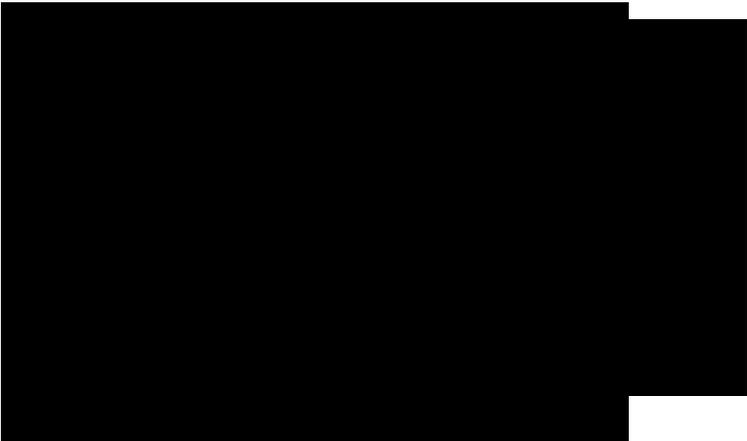
I am worried that the choices my children will have will be greatly reduced with budget cuts and job losses.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because not everyone, young or old, has the option of a costly university education and many TAFE courses allow the ability to find a much better position and even career.

Submitted by

Karen Fudge of Eltham North

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Erica McManus, of Belfield make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am a 62 year old teacher and have been involved with TAFE in many different ways. Firstly as a student myself, I completed both a typing course and a Librarianship course at TAFE. I worked as a librarian for many years and decided to complete a degree in Librarianship. My TAFE qualifications enabled me to do a combined Arts degree majoring in English and Librarianship in three years instead of four. I worked both as a reference librarian and cataloguer for many years but became a teacher later on using my English qualifications.

My personal experiences with TAFE have been very positive. I also have a 30 year old son with an intellectual disability who has benefited from doing different courses at TAFE. His first course was an Employment ACCESS course at Hornsby TAFE. Later on he managed to complete a Business Administration Course at Ultimo and Retail Course. Both these courses were very useful and he managed for some time to work

in an Office and feel like he had a "real job". Unfortunately his health took a bad turn and he now works in supported employment, sheltered workshop.

Last year he found out that Hornsby offered an Office and Administration Course and he was delighted to go back to TAFE. It is a small college but students with an intellectual disability are given a lot of support. It boosted his confidence and once again he was given some hope of gaining some worthwhile employment.

Sadly this year the funds for TAFE were drastically cut and of course the people who are the most disadvantaged in our community, the disabled who can't speak for themselves had to bear the consequences.

I think it's a disgrace that TAFE's funds have been cut and the possibility that private colleges might take over could be the biggest mistake ever. I would like to add that I myself have worked at TAFE part time as an ESOL teacher in the 1990's and I also have worked at some of the private colleges. The standards are not always the same. I would also like to add that I have friends who are still employed at TAFE and have been there for at least 16 years. I do hope that governments will consider the future of our young school leavers and also where will our children with disabilities go, which private college would take them?

I urge whoever reads this letter and has some power to persuade governments to reconsider and to reflect on all the positive things TAFE has done in the past.

Submitted by

Erica McManus of Belfield

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Mark Gregrory, of Potts Point make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retired, in the postcode of 2011.

I have been both a student and teacher at TAFE and consider it one of the most flexible and important educational institutions.

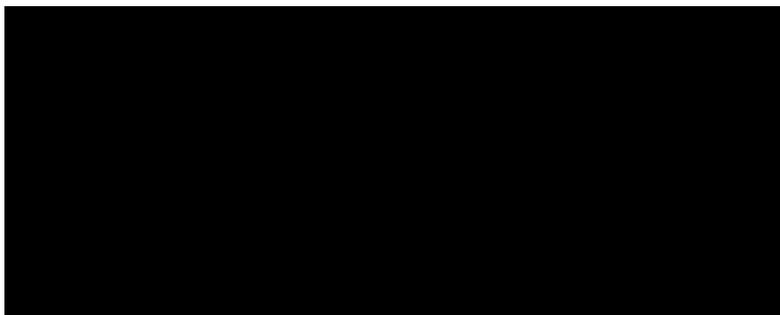
Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦

Submitted by

Mark Gregrory of Potts Point

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Phil Ward, of Hurstville Grove make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a secondary physics teacher, in the postcode of 2220.

I wanted to study something practical, as a counterpoint to my white collar, theory based vocation. I have an interest in motor vehicles, so I studied panel beating, one evening per week, for two years. Unfortunately, Gymea TAFE discontinued this course. After a short hiatus, I began doing spray painting at St George TAFE. It began as a hobby course, but with excellent teaching from the staff and a little persistence on my part, I have nearly finished my vehicle painting trade course.

In my trade, auto refinishing, I have seen TAFE staff and courses adapt to industry changes. Initially, I was painting acrylic lacquer. As this was phased out of the industry by the physically and chemically superior 2K paints, we were introduced to these and to the more stringent demands inherent in correctly and safely applying this paint.

I have seen other processes and techniques introduced by TAFE at industry evenings, eg "painless dent removal".

My wife (then, to be) arrived in Australia from China in 2002. She has a degree in teaching English from a Chinese university. However, she could not gain permanent, full time work in this area.

She enrolled in a TAFE "sandwich" course (Ku-ring-gai) to become an enrolled nurse. She achieved at a very high level in her course. She has now completed her degree in nursing to become a Registered Nurse. She is currently doing a post graduate qualification in nursing with U Tas. in addition to her full time job as an RN at St George Public Hospital.

Australia needs nurses. TAFE gave my wife her opportunity to become a nurse.

No. We live in Sydney's southern suburbs.

No. I have only patronised TAFE, because I know that the teaching and safety standards are very high.

I have been studying spray painting for several years, part time. In recent years, the availability and quality of paint materials has decreased.

More importantly, the students have lost our staff storeman. Now, the teacher has to fulfil both roles, which must be harder on him. This also means that students receive less teaching attention.

The loss of storeman support in my course (previously mentioned) is a significant negative impact on teaching and learning. Clearly, this loss is due to state government funding cuts. Course closure was threatened in 2012. This has been averted. Instead, we have reduced support services.

I'm looking forward to finishing this qualification, so that I can work for myself and possibly apprentice young people.

If TAFE is not well funded, opportunities for young Australians and the skill base of the nation will be severely compromised. Surely the committee sees the strong funding of TAFE as an important investment in our future, not just an expense to endure and trim.

Submitted by

Phil Ward of Hurstville Grove

Sunday 14th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Ray Woods, of Tugrah Devonport make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Shift Fitter and welding Inspector, in the postcode of 7310.

I started my working life as an Apprentice Boilermaker in 1972 at the Burnie Technical Collage at that time I did not consider the importance of the life long learning experience of a trade but that quickly changed when I completed my apprenticeship and started post trade training.

I completed my pressure welding certification tickets all 8 of them at night school at TAFE and then a welding supervisor training course.

the training continued with Industrial Hydraulics and Pneumatic s at this time the cost of training changed to a fee for service model.

and the award modernization changed the value of qualifications for the worker.

I completed further post trade training to gain a diploma in engineering advanced

Trade and certification as a Cad Draft person
and recently I have completed training as a welding Inspector and work part time in that role.

In my time as a trades person I have worked as a TAFE instructor training welders in pressure welding to AS 1796 Code standard at night school along with mentoring apprentices.

I am an active member of the AMWU and a member of that organisations National Skilled Trades Committee.

I believe that the TAFE system has a pivotal roll to play in the training of our new apprentices and the continuing training of the tradesmen and women to build the skills base that this country so desperately need to grow and prosper.

I have never stopped learning and perfecting my own personal skill and knowledge this has allowed me to gain and improve my employment and to put back some of that skill and knowledge to the up and coming young tradesmen and women in industry by training them at TAFE night school and to mentor apprentices at my work place.

I live in a regional city in Tasmania that makes it difficult to attend a university to gain higher skills so the TAFE system and the Tafe college has enabled myself and many other people to train for a smarter and better future.

The problems that face the training system at present stems from the notion that you can train a person vocational skills in a training class room with no or very little practical training this dose not and will not produce a trades person as the skill is in the practical hands on part of a trade.

The continual budget cuts in the TAFE sector have resulted in cutting of subjects and

lower class numbers and cutting of staff numbers in colleges at a time when we need to train more apprentices to fill the skill shortages rather than allow the use of overseas 457 visa holders to come in on low wages and prevent our children from gaining the skilled jobs they need.

The number of classes have been reduced due to cuts in funding of TAFE. It has also caused the rationalization of tafe collage departments throughout the State with some apprentices having to travel and board at a distant collage just to complete their training away from home and the protection of their parents at a considerable cost to them both financially physically and mentally.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need to have a technically competent and skilled workforce that can adapt and change to meet the ever changing world of work that our children and their children will face in the future.

The country needs a strong industry base to meet the challenges ahead and a skilled workforce is a precursor to achieve the goals ahead.

I believe the TAFE system that trained me has improved the country and we need to maintain and improve the funding to the TAFE system to give the next Generation of tradesmen and women the same start in life as we had.

Submitted by

Ray Woods of Tugrah Devonport

Sunday 14th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Julianna Hutchinson, of Thora make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a artist, in the postcode of 2454.

I began my art training at TAFE (Technical College) when I was 15 but left to work as a commercial artist before completion of my certificate. Studying art in TAFE led to a fifteen year career in the advertising industry and encouraged my lifelong interest in art.

I returned last year to further study, hoping to reach diploma level but at the end of my Certificate 3 course the funding cuts to the arts in TAFE cut short my studies.

TAFE offers school leavers the opportunity to take a step in the direction of their chosen career path without committing to a debilitating HECS debt. Offering short, funded courses means young people can experience at a practical level their chosen occupation and be sure of the direction they want to take in their life. As the courses

are practical and hands on they are a more effective learning experience. TAFE courses help people to find their feet when they've been out of work for extended period. Having to pay a huge debt for education (with little or no practical tuition) can only lead to poor decisions based on financial outcomes and inexperience instead of suitable careers for the right people.

I returned to TAFE last year after being a full time mother and home educator. My TAFE experience gave me a confidence I had lost, enabled me to rediscover organizational and people skills I'd forgotten I had and opened my mind to many areas of artistic expression I hadn't yet explored in my art journey. It was one of the best years of my life. I was given the opportunity to achieve a credential otherwise unavailable to me. I had only achieved year 10.

I live on the mid north coast of NSW where unemployment is high and one has to be versatile and multi skilled to earn a living. Wages are also low. There are many self employed craftspeople and artists who supplement their income with part time work or a working partner. TAFE offers courses that extend the skills that help make people in our community independent and self sufficient and that keeps the community alive.

I have noticed a lot of advertising for private colleges and Certificate courses offered by colleges I don't recognize. It would be helpful if prospective students could contact a body of some sort that would advise them of 'rip offs' offering lower standard 'education'.

Our local TAFE is not offering Certificate courses in art. The Diploma in Fine Art was \$1,500 and is now \$12,000. There have been job losses.

Fine Art Certificate courses have been cut. They are accepting students into Diploma

courses who have done no previous study.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it's an institution that gives hope and encouragement to many. It offers a second chance and a way back into the workforce for people who can not entertain the thought of university. TAFE gives practical tuition to give people SKILLS for practical work.

Submitted by

Julianna Hutchinson of Thora

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Daniel Prasad, of Roxburgh Park make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Traffic Control, in the postcode of 3064.

My First taste of TAFE was after High School, i did a Aircraft Engineering course at RMIT gaining a Associate Diploma of Engineering. I had successfully gained a place at Ansett Airlines as a trainee. However shortly after i lost my place due to the airline facing adminstrative shut down, during my time i also completed over 400 hours at TAFE to learn about the theory side. I recently also completed my tickets to be able to further my employment prospects in the construction industry, my tockets were gained through TAFE.

TAFE helps those entering trades learn vital skills often from lecturers who share their skills and experience with students to enrich their learning experience. Without TAFE's the students will not be able to fully understand the processes and procedures in their

chosen field. I know that i really believe that without TAFE's this country will not be able to progress further in terms of advancing their tradespeople with leading edge skills and knowledge, in fact we would be taking a huge step backwards in the way trades are performed, and that's a very scary prospect indeed , both for businesses, and employees.

Without TAFE i wouldn't have been able to continue onto unversity education to further my skills and knowledge. I also found TAFE very relevant to the real world, as you were able to get your hands 'dirty'.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes, there have been numerous TAFE closures, which in turn places a strain on existing TAFE's that remain, in terms of increases in numbers of students to teacher ratio. the fees are significantly higher. Courses offered have been reduced, or eliminated altogether. It just seems that technical skills are just not as valued anymore.

It has a flow on effect in so many ways such as:

Decrease in apprenticeships

Loss of Skills "Skills Gap"

Loss of Jobs

Students feeling deprived of resources

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need to ensure that there is no "Skills Gap", and that th current form of off the job, and on

the job training is maintained. A skills shortage is already bad enough as it is with some industries having to bring in skilled people from overseas to plug that gap with 457 visas. We need to ensure that the next generation will not have issues trying to obtain an apprenticeship, just because employers are filling the gap with overseas workers, rather than taking the time to fully train an apprentice!

Submitted by

Daniel Prasad of Roxburgh Park

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Emmanuel Kondok, of North Parramatta make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Volunteer, in the postcode of 2151.

My is Emmanuel Kondok, I attended Granville Tafe College in 2008,2009,2010 and 2011, completed, Certificate four in Human Resources and Managements, Diploma and advance Diploma of Human Resources. Tafe plays vital roles as a technicals institutes specialising in various field of study. Before I didn't attend tafe classes, my skills was only shorted, only Certificate Four or HSC studies. since I entered in these fields I becomes more valueables to manages and works in the any Field of human skills. Being going to study in Tafe specialising field is better than taking a long terms to University. in - facts the challenges of University you only spends a lot of money,times and at the end you will be asks to do works experiences before employers offer you a jobs, but in tafe you go/enter directs to the Workforce.

Very strongly Tafe contributes highly to the Australian workforce by preparing unskilled persons within short times.

Poor citizens find their skills without difficulties.

Myself wouldn't find opportunities, if TAFE would have offered me chances to study under subsidies schemes. Parents of kids can't find the way to pay school fees, before they can get a job.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes, private colleges cost a lot of money or school fees
Longer time to finish study.

The cuts will affect not local TAFE, but students, will not find their specialising fields.

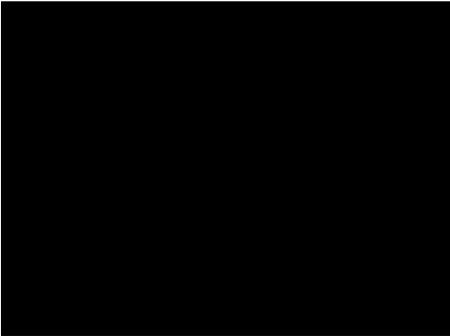
Decrease in the students to attend classes
Drawing away professional teachers to a well-paid teaching institutes. Employers in the Australian workforce will turn their head to sources of professionals and qualified/skilled workers from overseas, leaving citizens without employments in their own country.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because to the careers flowing within the country.

Submitted by

Emmanuel Kondok of North Parramatta

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Barry Jeffery, of Nowra make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Survey Technician, in the postcode of 2541.

I think tafe makes a big difference to people who have not been able to complete uni but still want a qualification. I was never very good at school with english in general, so uni didnt suit me, but tafe being a more practical learning environment, i was able to get a diploma in surveying.

Being skills based training i think people come out ready to work, instead of having the knowledge but no practical skills.

I started as a survey assistant then learnt on the job to be a field surveyor, but was never paid as one because of no qualifications, tafe helped me to get my qualification

through a range of methods and in a part time formate which helped with a family and at the age of 40.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means our children can still live at home where it more affordable and complete there study.

i havent had an experience with this.

I have noticed not as many courses being run if there are border line numbers.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because not everyone can afford a high cost education and most people would like to better them self for them and there family.

Submitted by

Barry Jeffery of Nowra

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Julie Sneddon, of Beecroft make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 45 years old and work as a volunteer, in the postcode of 2119.

I work full-time as a volunteer manager of a farm project with a charity and work directly with Western Sydney Outreach. Have also worked on the PLACE project as an employee

We work with the most marginalised in NSW and Outreach have delivered 38 courses to 500 students. Many who are working full-time now and/or studying in higher education. These people have struggled with education until now. Were on benefits, were not in a position to take a positive role in community and cost the govt a fortune.

500 adult students with very high needs, from disadvantaged backgrounds and with little education or confidence have blossomed and are now contributing in a positive

way and are engaged, enthusiastic some in paid employment and others living a life very different from the issues they had prior to tafe.

I work in the western area of Sydney. Crime is high, learning difficulties are very apparent, social dysfunction through lack of education is a huge concern. If we remove tafe, we are denying those who are not academic an opportunity to learn and become skilled in a practical way and contribute to society. People who are not academically able will be on benefits permanently which will continue to fuel poor self esteem and create bad behaviour.

Once you hand over to privately run services it has to become about generating money and showing profit and often that means education and training is compromised.

The govt cuts are destroying an institution that has been successfully training thousands of people and more importantly have been supporting the most marginalised and disadvantaged.

I get angrier the more I answer these questions as I have had the opportunity to witness 100s of people seriously change their lives because they have been able to enrol in Outreach courses They have stopped addictions, they have pride, confidence, jobs and are living and contributing to our society. To close these areas of tafe will see an increase in unemployment, crime and dysfunction and it will eventually cost the govt more to support the negative behaviour than the positive. It doesn't make sense!!

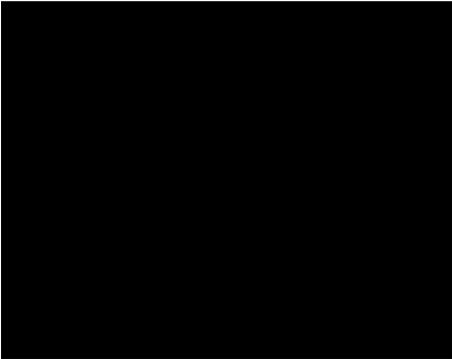
I have chosen to work full-time as a volunteer (with a charity) as I am so passionate about the need for our most marginalised to be supported. We have a farm and in partnership with Western Sydney Outreach services we have delivered 38 courses to 500 refugees, x offenders, work for the dole participants and those struggling with

mental health issues. These peoples lives have been changed in such a positive way, they have learned respect for themselves, for community. Many are working and no longer on benefits. The teachers have given them the opportunity to create change. We have areas in Sydney that are so incredibly disadvantaged and if we are saying we want to give people equal opportunities how does taking away from those with the highest needs benefiting the individual or society as a whole. It is wrong and irresponsible and we should be protesting loudly with statistics and information that forces the govt to recognise they are significantly disadvantaging our community and that if we believe education is the key to change why are they giving those who are not academic no choice but to continue a life of unemployment and poverty.

Submitted by

julie sneddon of beecroft

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Simon Black, of Kingaroy make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Condition Monitoring, in the postcode of 4610.

I studied through grade 11 and 12 as part of a program were once a week we attended tafe then went on to do prevocational course in fiiting and turning this was the key to obtaining an aprenticeship the went on to do further studies in welding certification and some other automotive courses i believe tafe has been the key to becoming a very compentent tradesman and further bettering myself.

It give people the opportunity to learn skill were they have interests.

Tafe has covered such a large part of my training which now allows me to work in several differnet feilds if i wish.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...this is our only opportunity for tertiary studies in our area

They have not only affected tafe but also our work place which was once a big supporter of apprenticeships there for reducing tafe numbers

Not only less tafe courses but less people now been trained

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because they provide lot of opportunity for people to train in areas they enjoy and are therefore able to seek employment.

Submitted by

Simon Black of Kingaroy

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Colleen Lonnie, of Tugun make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Disability service manager, in the postcode of 4224.

If it was not for TAFE I would not be in the managerial role Or the company I am currently employed with. TAFE sets a high standard and ensures knowledge is learnt and understood. As a manager of a disability service I also see the irreplaceable value TAFE had for the people we support, enabling them to study with the support they require. Opening up new employment opportunities and highly important community connections.

We only employ staff who have a minimum cert 3 from TAFE education. We know that if they have completed a TAFE course they have acquired the basic skills and knowledge that we require.

Personally if it had not been for TAFE I would not be in my current position. I was young, living out of home and heading towards a destructive lifestyle. Thankfully I started a TAFE course in disability studies, and found a purpose. I was accepted by my peers and supported by TAFE to complete my studies gain employment in the disability industry and become a respected member of my community who contributes in many many ways.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means further education further options and a sense of being able to achieve my dreams.

As an employer, I have noticed a large increase in poorly regulated courses run by private colleges. I have noted that these students do not have the understanding or knowledge that TAFE students have, yet they have completed the same course. I basically need to retrain a lot of these students that have not gone to TAFE.

I have noticed large increases to fees in TAFE courses. This will make obtaining study for a large section of the population even more unobtainable.

Hardship faced by lower income families trying to support someone attending TAFE.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE supply's quality education at an affordable price for all Australians.

Submitted by

Colleen Lonnie of Tugun

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Russell Thomas, of Wonthaggi make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Capital Project Officer, in the postcode of 3995.

Completed an Advanced Certificate in Works Management (Municipal and Roads)

Older people have the opportunity to re-educate them selves

Able to re-train after being retrenched

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means... the opportunity still exists to retrain at a later age in life

yes Course have decreased

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦

Submitted by

Russell Thomas of Wonthaggi

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, lizette hansen, of douglas make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 4814.

I am a teacher at Tafe, I have had a son complete Cert 4 in Fitness, and Daughter complete a tech music Cert 2, Cert 3 in Fitness and a Diploma of Beauty Therapy. Daughter and son are both working. Daughter in Spa, Son is co-ordinator in the Oceana Athletic programs

Entry is easier for the kids (good/Bad??)

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Not really

Yes and stress levels up with teachers. More middle management employed, still more work for us teachers.

Need to sort out their management levels, let us teachers teach, as at the moment we are tired stressed, demands are high even though we or I can speak for myself I have always delivered to a high standard, but I am concerned with demands from middle and Higher management something has to give, and will give.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because if not the teachers whom are your reputation are going to stress, get ill, leave, go to private etc etc.â€!

Submitted by

lizette hansen of douglas

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Ken Berry, of Yeppoon make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a systems Tech, in the postcode of 4703.

I have attended Tafe during my apprenticeship. & done other courses. My Daughter attends Tafe for her apprenticeship. Tafe is important for the roles it plays in every apprenticeship & in many other careers for setting the standard of assesment & giving practical application of theoretical learnings from practical & experienced teachers from trade back grounds.

Tafe is important for the roles it plays in every apprenticeship & many other carriers for setting the standard of assesment & giving practical application of theoretical learnings from practical & experienced teachers from trade back grounds. Universities have tended to be run by accademics with limited practical experience & this learning style does not suit the majority of people.

n/a

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...Tafe allows for modular training in smaller targeted packages that meet what employers require with a focus that keeps students more engaged because it is relevant.

n/a

yes. Apprentices struggling to get their block releases due lack of teachers especially elect apprentices in the CQ region.

see 7

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because€!Practical hands on people that come through the TAFE system are the required to make the state work inspite of the beauracrtic night mare our govts are creating.

Submitted by

Ken Berry of Yeppoon

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, John Nichols, of Drysdale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Maintenance fitter, in the postcode of 3222.

I'm a Fitter and Turner employed at the Ford Motor Company of Australia .I've been here for 24 years in that time I have spent several years at tafe furthering my on job skills and knowlage .I have a certificate 4 in OHS also an Advanced Diploma in Engineering and have completed an industrial maintenance ticket .I have several mobile equipment tickets as well i have rigging intermediate ,elevated work platform ,forklift 20 ton mobile crane .With these skills I am never out of work..

Tafe contributes by giving access to all people and education levels the means and the teaching process to allow them to better themselves and be able to provide there familys and the communitie with a highly skilled workforce thus enabling them to earn better wages to help all of those concerned..

Tafe has helped several of my sons friends who struggled in the main stream school system ie :bullying /learning difficulties not fitting in etc. be able to obtain a trade and skills to make them employable this then reduces the pressure on there parents and the unemployment system and helps them contrbuite to the entrie community.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

yes there seems to be alot of training providersd doing courses in half or sometimes a third of the time.

yes placements are down fees have doubled courses have been dropped..

They have reduced the amount of employeable cross skilled people dramaticly.,

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦!

Submitted by

John Nichols of Drysdale

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, David Evans, of Richardson make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Facility assistant, in the postcode of 0200.

I have completed two trade certificates (fitting and machining/ electronics) and an engineering degree through TAFE.

Education is the backbone of a smart society.

I completed my second trade certificate after being made redundant, this enabled me to acquire my current position.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦

Submitted by

David Evans of Richardson

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Mick Wright, of Annandale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Trainer & Assessor, in the postcode of 4814.

I started Tafe in 1986 and finished in 1989.

I believe that Tafe puts out quality Trades persons and we need them for the future, as the skills shortage grows.

I had failed one of my subjects at tafe and I recieved all the help I needed to get through. All the teachers gave me a hand through study after hours in their own time, which help me get through the supplementry assessment.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means that the apprentice has to

travel long distances some times and this can have an affect on the apprentice, if their not used to being away from their parents.

Certainly have, when you have budget cuts or governments haven't got their finger on the pulse, we get left behind.

All the time

Certainly

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because other other country's are making us look like fools.

Submitted by

Mick Wright of Annandale

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Barbara Casey, of Ashfield make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2131.

On leaving school, I enrolled into a shorthand and typing course at Ultimo TAFE. I studied for six months and was able to graduate with the minimum speeds required at the time. After graduating I obtained a job with the Commonwealth Government in the Taxation Department. I was 16 years old. My career as a teacher began after I left the business world, in 1993.

Thanks to the great teacher I had in TAFE I acquired secretarial skills which have been of great value to me in my professional and personal life.

The skills which can be learnt in many courses in TAFE provide a basis for professional growth which is immeasurable - as mentioned in my case. The feeling a

young person has in obtaining these skills is of enormous benefit to them in terms of their self esteem and in real terms i.e. in obtaining a job which is an important beginning of a career.

As I had left school very early (prior to gaining an Intermediate Certificate in 1966) I was unable to gain employment which I consider to be worthwhile. TAFE was able to provide me with skills which enabled me to gain a foothold into a professional career.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...having access to facilities which are of benefit to young people. Cutting services to regional areas will have far reaching consequences for school leavers and others who rely on this service. TAFE provides an opportunity for a future by giving young people, as well as older students, access to vocational skills which are needed in the community.

It is of great concern to me and my colleagues that private operators are offering courses with little or no real practical course content. These operators are profiting from government policies which do not value the role of TAFE and their services.

I am concerned at the prospect of job losses on behalf of my TAFE colleagues.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is vital for our many students who need their services. Any cuts in services for the TAFE system will impact on our communities who want to provide a variety of job opportunities for young people now and into the future.

Submitted by

Barbara Casey of Ashfield

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Steve McLean, of Griffith make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Work Scheduler, in the postcode of 2680.

I have completed a Cert IV OHS and am now studying for a Diploma in Project Management. Without these qualifications I would not be able to progress within the company that I work for.

TAFE provides services that will ensure the future of many people, especially apprentices, and the training they require is essential to the work that they wish to do for the remainder of their careers.

Without the training provided by TAFE, I would not have been able to advance through the structure of the company that I work for. It has been an invaluable resource.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means I have access to the educational services that I require.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it provides an invaluable and essential service to the wider community. It provides the opportunity for those that need education and training to be able to qualify for jobs and or promotions, that they would not otherwise be able to get.

Submitted by

Steve McLean of Griffith

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Brooke Everett, of Fairfield make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a jewellery maker, in the postcode of 3078.

Currently studying 2nd year at RMIT in OBP, G&S. If I had known the option to study at TAFE was available I would have chosen the TAFE course (NMIT) first. And then continued onto a degree.

I grew up in Country Victoria, and skills any any trade were almost expected. I think we need to train our own youth in order to create local jobs, and a strong local economy.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

N/A

N/A

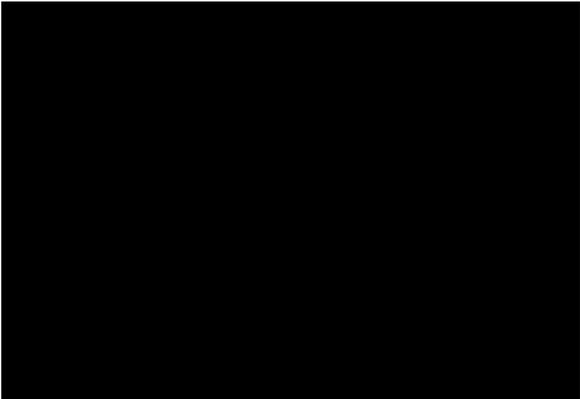
Well RMIT G&S is running at full capacity, so I suppose some TAFE cuts are causing people to seek education elsewhere.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because I believe that as people become more "Green" that re using and recycling old jewellery will become almost the norm. That Gold and other precious metals are not infinite resources and skilled tradespeople will be in demand to reuse what we have.

Submitted by

Brooke Everett of Fairfield

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Ian Byrne, of Biloela make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Planner Co Ordinator, in the postcode of 4715.

I am a Fitter& Turner by Trade & used the Bendigo tafe college to help achieve this. I am a Father of three & my oldest son also trained as a Fitter & turner using TAFE as his primary source of training.

TAFE is an integral part of the australian trade workforce and to deplete its services any further would be detrimental to australia's ability to grow as a manufacturing country and compete with the rest of the world

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE meant that my son was able to gain vital skills prior to him embarking on his apprenticeship. This helped him emensly in the early stages of his apprenticeship as he was able to concentrate more on his on the

job skills during his first year.

Yes I don't believe the current Rabble of politicians have any long term vision of how australia is going to compete in the future if they don't train at a grass root level.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦!

Submitted by

Ian Byrne of Biloela

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Todd Thornborough, of Oatley make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Project Manager, in the postcode of 2140.

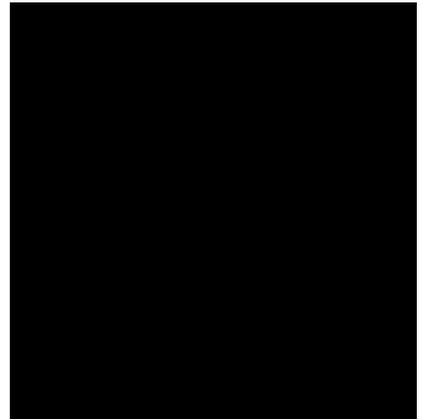
TAFE allowed me to complete a traineeship with EnergyAustralia (now Ausgrid). Leaving school, I didn't have the marks required to obtain entry into my desired university course, so I decided to enter the workforce first. I have now been at Ausgrid for nearly 10 years.

TAFE was a great stepping stone into a professional career, but it is also critical to training and educating our tradespeople. Every person I know that has a trade has completed a TAFE course, and many go back to learn more about their job than they probably need to. If TAFE was not there these people would not choose to attend university for their extra education, and this would be an enormous shame.

Submitted by

Todd Thornborough of Oatley

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Theresa Chard, of Tannum Sands make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Administration Officer, in the postcode of 4680.

For quite a number of years I have supervised numerous trainees completing a Cert III or IV in Business Administration.

These trainees have left Senior and at that stage of their life had decided they did not want to attend university but knew they needed to gain extra skills to gain work. Twelve months of a traineeship at TAFE allowed them to grow and develop and at the end of the traineeship ALL our trainees either gained employment or decided they did want to continue with their education and went on to university.

Living in a regional area and being able to attend the local TAFE and gaining the further education local residents require is a wonderful alternative than having to

relocate which is a huge disruption to peoples lives and can be a very expensive alternative.

17 years ago and having worked only part time for four years while having my children, I decided to go back to TAFE to update my skills. While attending courses there, a teacher put my name forward to an industry who had contacted TAFE recruiting admin officers. With my husband being the only income earner, I could not have attended TAFE if the fees had been higher, I would not have been able to update my skills and I would not have gained employment as quickly as I did. I have noticed a big increase in student fees, fewer courses available and less teachers.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded. We need to ensure we have enough TAFE campuses to keep our people in the regions, we need teachers to provide the courses and we need appropriate courses to develop the skills of people who either do not want to attend university or do not want to relocate from regional areas to attend further education. Governments need to look at the long term savings of educating our people. The alternative could be huge spendings in unemployment benefits.

Submitted by

Theresa Chard of Tannum Sands

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Ruth Nickless, of Box Hill North make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 45 years old and work as a , in the postcode of 3129.

I attended Phillip Institute Bundoora to do post grad Community Health Nursing. I would like to know what standard of education is to be provided for those people wanting a diploma or certificate level of education. Who will help the less well off student achieve a tertiary education? How will technicians mechanics builders achieve an education ?

I am astonished this Gov stands by as money is wasted on bureaucrats and not teachers. Lets put it right and incorporate this modern world we live in. Have some catching up to do now.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦
Australia is now getting left behind

Submitted by

ruth nickless of boxhill north

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Debra Hall, of Coffs Harbour make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Practice Manager, in the postcode of 2450.

My son is 17 and attends TAFE as part of his Yr 11 & 12 study. My daughter is 15, currently in year 10 and TAFE is an extremely good option for her.

TAFE is a better option for students that require a "hands on" approach. Both my children are such.

My son has always wanted to be an engineer and my husband and I believe the career suits him perfectly. In year 12 he has found the study too broad and is not succeeding well enough to attend uni at this stage. TAFE is his way to achieve this career with a hands on approach. He is loving the Cert II he is currently doing and is used as an example for the year 11 students.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means an affordable solution to tertiary education for students that may not obtain the necessary ATAR to get their chosen career.

Poorly regulated private training organisations ie Cert III is offered in house by many training organisations. I've seen 2 of them and they are no-where near the calibre of the TAFE course.

The courses offered are less and the courses still offered are more costly, therefore the number of students has decreased. In a country where our education is not valued high enough, its a further example of how the rate will lower further.

Students used to be mentored to a greater extent.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because€! In the life of my children aged 15 & 17, children have to stay at school until 17. They are amongst many students who don't want to be there and are distracting and taking up teachers time for those that could do with it more. TAFE used to be an option for those students who are not book studiers. They chose something that interested them, instead of the broad spectrum that students HAVE to do in high school, therefore they achieved... Without TAFE there is no other option. The country will have more untrained, non-working people.

Submitted by

Debra Hall of Coffs Harbour

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Lucas Blacker, of Earlwood make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a jeweller, in the postcode of 2206.

I have completed an apprenticeship and TAFE in Jewellery and I have completed a certificate 3 in hand engraving.

I have had 3 apprentices that have attended TAFE while doing jewellery apprenticeships

TAFE is instrumental in covering all the aspects of training that individual jobs don't train you for. So when I finished my apprenticeship and worked for another company I had an understanding of different skills that I hadn't used in the previous job.

My wife trained in Graphic reproduction in the 1980's.

The Graphics industry had changed so much that my wife needed to reskill for the

current work force.

In 2008 after having a family she started retraining in Computer Applications Cert2 , Statement of attainment in MYOB leading through to a Cert 4 in Bookkeeping. These courses gave my wife the opportunity to get confidence and re connect when she felt disconnected from society

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...N/A

I have noticed an increase in private colleges, but I do not have any experience with them

Yes I have noticed budget cuts at the TAFE and seen courses cut and teachers hours cut.

In the jewellery industry this is the only place available for further skills and training. And these courses have been cut. You cannot do the hand engraving course in NSW now or any other further training apart from the apprenticeship course that is industry related

Classes are being cut for the sake of cost cutting not through lack of need

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need training for many industries. We have taken the attitude that we need university education for so many professions , but we need to have a stronger connection the practical needs of every day processes in the workforce. This is what TAFE is for. We have enough people coming out of Universities that aren't trained for industries needs. This is DUMB policy to cut funding to TAFE

Submitted by

Lucas Blacker of Earlwood

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

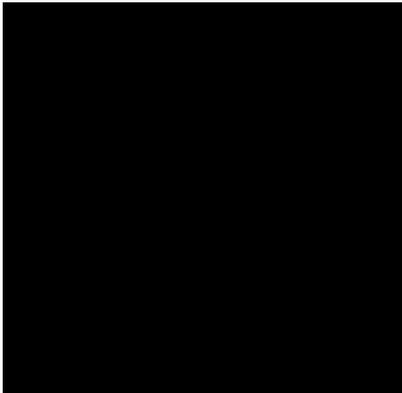
I, Graham Duncanson, of Alexandra Hills make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

TAFE is extremely important as it provides an opportunity of further education for those who cannot, do not wish to, or cannot afford to enter into university study. This is even more important now as the Prime Minister has just made it much more expensive to attend University by removing the governments contributions to universities and removing the 10% discount for paying university fees "up front".

Submitted by

Graham Duncanson of Alexandra Hills

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Ruth Phillips, of LEWISHAM make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a academic, in the postcode of 2049.

As a young person I greatly benefited from doing TAFE courses.

Successful development in advanced economies has relied very strongly on the distinction between 'technical' education and university based education at the tertiary level. Australia has also relied on this distinction through the TAFE/university roles in training a diverse and well skilled workforce. TAFE us crucial for its clear focus on technical development as well as skills training and producing job ready graduates that make a significant contribution to an increasing services oriented economy in Australia.

We have a substantial number of mature students (often having endured high levels of social and economic disadvantage) entering our university program who have been

able to do so entirely due to what they were able to achieve through the TAFE system.

No.

I have had international students who get caught up in teaching English as a second language in such colleges where they have been exploited through low pay and poor conditions of work.

Instead of being the very straight forward low cost option for everyone, TAFE now requires the a required level of financial sacrifice and challenges to attend.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE colleges play a crucial role in national education and fulfill very specific training needs for young people and individuals who have endured a range of social and economic barriers in attaining school or post school education. Keep TAFE safe and well funded.

Submitted by

Ruth Phillips of LEWISHAM

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, andrew ruddell, of whitebridge make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a computer support officer, in the postcode of 2297.

did 2 certificates at TAFE, both my sons trained at TAFE, both gainfully employed, my father trained in engineering at TAFE, very successful career now self funded retiree. so three generations have added to the well being of our nation, not one relying on ANY form of publicly funded income.

NSW TAFE has trained the majority of skilled workers in Qld coalfields besides NSW coalfields, it undertakes SAFE training in high skilled trades that private enterprise could not fund the training environment. School students that cannot be successfully accomodated in their system come to TAFE to complete their school studies and move onto a successful vocation in the flexible TAFE environment that the school space had failed to successfully integrate them into.

TAFE gave me a 2nd chance - I injured my lower back in my original vocation of Horticulture which I could no longer successfully encompass and redeployed me in IT.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means... to gain skills employers want while still living at home and so getting family support at a vulnerable age to be making their way alone in the world in a new environment after school.

very much so - why cut courses in heavy engineering trades where the nation is crying out for these skills? why deny school aged students a 2nd chance when they cannot conform to the regulated school system? my son intended to continue studies this year but the lack of co-ordinated admin support meant that the initial place of attendance terminated the course offering and the alternate campus some 90kms away could not conduct the training on the previously agreed evening of the week - it took him numerous phone calls and eventually a day off work to visit both campuses in person to get his fees refunded taking over 2 months!

no IT training at Hunter Institute's main campus, Newcastle!!

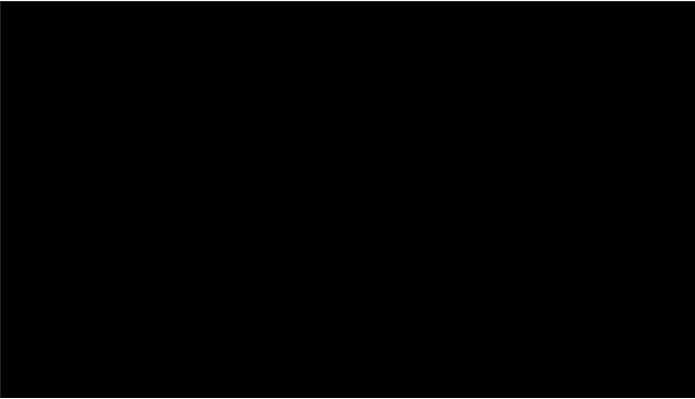
have to travel to Kurri campus to study Horticulture where no public transport services the college and it is nearly 3kms away from the nearest convoluted bus route!

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the future of our nation rests on our ability to flexibly train our next generation of highly skilled technicians be it heavy industry, mining, tourism, future power generating ventures. TAFE is the only real alternative where economies of scale allow timely adoption of new training environments to THOROUGHLY meet future demands of our economy.

Submitted by

andrew ruddell of whitebridge

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, , of Angle Vale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Substation Designer, in the postcode of 5117.

After finishing year 12 I completed an Advanced Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. This course is a requirement for the field I work in. since then I have been back to TAFE several times at nights to complete short courses or individual subjects to further my skills or learn new ones for work or for personal interests.

There are alot of people that have no desire to complete a university degree, TAFE offers them an alternative to do some additional learning. I was in this boat.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

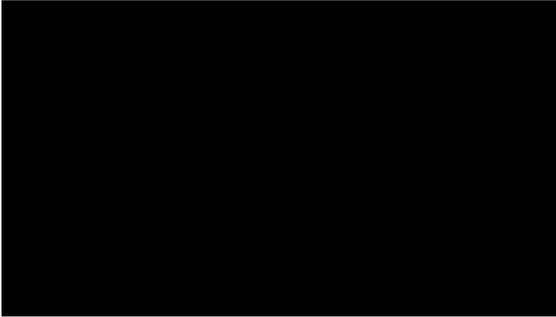
In the office I work in we run a trainee program where we subsidise TAFE learning to help them complete the Advanced Diploma either in Mechanical, Civil Structural or Electrical. In recent times students have encountered problems such as subjects they wish to attend not being offered, having to travel further as TAFE cut back where courses are offered.

Some of our trainees are currently un-able to complete their courses as subjects they need to complete are not being offered.

TAFE is the place that the average Australian can further their learning and skills, without it you cut the opportunities for a large number of people who want to learn.

Submitted by
of Angle Vale

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Barry O'Leary, of Warilla make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a engineer, in the postcode of 2528.

My son and two daughters have completed their career qualifications at TAFE

TAFE provides theory backed up with practical experience and industry based exposure

My eldest daughter has a degree qualification and previously working in the community services sector working for 14 years when she decided on a career change to horticulture and land scaping to, with the aim of starting her own business, she has completed TAFE qualifications and continues to study at TAFE

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

no knowlwdge

laying off of part time teachers who provide valuable practical career insights to students

Yes the local TAFE's are continually complaining and agitationg against budget cuts

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€it is a absolutely necessary as a vital mix in education to achieve a successful and ongoing harmonious working economy

Submitted by

Barry O'Leary of Warilla

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Wendy Iversen, of Bomaderry make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Public Servant, in the postcode of 2541.

I moved to Nowra in 1999 to live closer to my mother. I am a single mother of 2 children one of whom was regularly in & out of hospital.

I had recently discharged from the RAAF after 7 years PAF then a further 5 years in the Reserves and found myself unable to secure employment.

Rather than sit at home I enrolled at the Bomaderry TAFE and undertook securing my HSC (Tertiary Preparation Certificate).

It was after securing this certificate that I secured employment with Housing NSW and have been employed with them since then.

Without the skills and knowledge I obtained I would not have secured my current

employment or have the the security that I have worked so hard for.

This current employment is my second chance. Without the knowledge/training i obtained I have no doubt I would be working in a menial job with little or not career progression.

For me TAFE was the only option and having the local facility was a blessing. It raised me out of a depression and gave me confidence to seek a career rather than a job.

During my time at TAFE many teachers devoted their free time as well as class time to assist me secure a final certificate with a great score. Cut backs mean there are not as many teachers and that those available do not have the same time to devote to individual students.

TAFE has been extremely important to me. I now feel productive and successful and someone for my children to look up to. I contribute financially to my community and rather than draining government resources accepting Centrelink payments I pay taxes. I find it hard to express how important it is/was for me to be able to be independent and contribute.

Submitted by

Wendy Iversen of Bomaderry

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Phillip Oswald, of North Narrabeen make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Engineering Officer, in the postcode of 2101.

Myself, after school I completed Electrical Trade and then Associate Diploma (Electrical Engineering Certificate) and many other courses at TAFE at various campus.

My daughter is a third year apprentice in Jewellery Trade and has completed the Fashion Diploma as well as the Garmet design and Manufacture Certificates

TAFE has always provided excellent training for myself and my other colleagues in my industry. Its training is current and the staff are well versed with the industry that they have come from.

My daughter has been able to expand on her design creativity to allow her to find a

career in the Jewellery Industry.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes some trade colleges have closed and TAFE has had to become the provider

Brookvale TAFE for example has deleted courses such as Machining, Panel Repair and Building. This NSW State government has increased the costs and removed Fine Arts.

Yes as above

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it provides people with the skills to find well paid and meaningful work. It allows people to expand there skills and provides the basics that employers look for when employing new staff.

Submitted by

Phillip Oswald of North Narrabeen

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Greg pike, of Moruya make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a civil technician, in the postcode of 2537.

I went to tafe for my education and it was a critical issue for for current employment

Tafe provides the means for anyone to learn issues that apply to so many areas of our community to make our community a good place to live

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means that access to education is availabel, without the need to travel long distance for an education

Education is so important should be as easy today as it was for me to encourage as many as possible to undertake further study, so that we can be a smart country.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because I believe that a country full of educated smart people is a good country to live in, competitive with the world and we all should enjoy a good quality of life. I can't understand how the Gillard government is working so hard to fix the disgraceful attitude of the Howard era, and the NSW government is cutting so much funding and working hard to make us the dumb country.

Submitted by

Greg Pike of Moruya

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, , of Hurlstone Park NSW make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

Martha Ansara
1 Hampden Street
Hurlstone Park NSW
2193
hotdox@inet.net.au
02 9573 1886

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Martha Ansara, of Hurlstone Park NSW make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 70 years old and work as a retired film director and writer, in the postcode of 2193.

I sent in a submission by email but thought I should add to it here as I forgot some things...

2 out of 3 of my children have benefited greatly from TAFE. My daughter makes a great contribution to the Arts in many ways as a result. My son who has MS and was a removalist is now doing a radio course which I hope will eventually lead to work for him -- he's on the disability pension.

My close young friend with schizophrenia did art at Meadowbank TAFE; his work has been hung in the Dobell and his art keeps him out of hospital at a considerable savings to the public purse. I typically here of people for whom TAFE has been a life-saver. For example, I met a woman on the bus yesterday who told me about how her TAFE course in retail enabled her to retrain and keep a job although she is over 60. My step-daughter did TAFE courses as part of her apprenticeship and some years ago now was Apprentice of the Year in Victoria. As bright as she is, she didn't finish high school and university was not for her. And many young technicians whom I meet in the film industry have started their training through TAFE. Indeed, I myself received a glorified TAFE training in the mid-1970s through the Australian Film Radio & Television School, a three year Diploma course.

Not everyone has the academic achievement or the social background or finances to

go to university. Nor do we want everyone gaining a higher education in this way, as the applied study taught in TAFE is essential for a functioning society. Unfortunately what I have seen at university (speaking as a uni lecturer with a post graduate degree) is that too many courses neglect a very necessary practical aspect to education in pursuit of supposedly more prestigious speculative and theoretical studies (not that theory doesn't have an important place). The result, only too often, is educated fools, who then have to start all over again if they want to work and contribute in the "real world". It is inconceivable to me that Australia can thrive in the future without the technical and vocational higher education that an affordable TAFE gives to a diverse range of people.

Even for those for whom TAFE does not result in a vocational outcome, study results in a more intelligent informed population. In my view, the focus and application involved in study is beneficial regardless of the subject matter or the outcome in terms of jobs. TAFE is one way to mitigate against the horrors of an ignorant and reactive underclass which is so evident in even as wealthy a country as the United States. There the expense of private tertiary education, along with the underfunding of schools in the less affluent neighbourhoods, has contributed to social outcomes which we really don't want here.

One of the great things about TAFE is that it is easy to attend and in any stage of life. My son, formerly a removalist, now disabled through MS, is currently enrolled in a TAFE radio production course, taught by some of the most experienced radio people in the country. He greatly respects them for the skill and knowledge they pass on from having actually worked in their field for so long. Importantly, this course is free for people on a Disability Pension -- essential, really, as the pension doesn't stretch much beyond the

absolute basics of food and shelter. I should mention also that previously when he did not do well at a conventional high school, he did his HSC as a mature age part-time student at TAFE while working full time. My daughter who later did a three-year TAFE course and is now a successful working actor actually started her TAFE studies in High School through Bradfield College. This helped to keep her in school longer -- although she was so successful as an actor even as a teenager that she went on to her three-year tertiary TAFE course without completing high school. Incidentally, she did her high school language course through OTEN and came first in the State, with a score of 100% and the Premier's prize. The point of this is that education can be delivered in many ways as not all models suit all people. High school courses designed for university entry are not suitable and will not retain some students who might continue studying in a different environment.

TAFE, in my experience has high standards but in recent years there have been a number of private colleges which come and go, supposedly offering training in film production. I have friends who have taught in them and report that their standards and their equipment are sub-standard. I have yet to meet young people working in film who started in these money-making enterprises, although there may become. This is quite a contrast with TAFE.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded and available at very low cost because Australia needs that kind of technical and vocational training and equally needs the diversity of people who attend TAFE.

Submitted by

Martha Ansara of Hurlstone Park NSW

Monday 15th of April 2013

Submitted by

of Hurlstone Park NSW

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Matthew Holle, of Erskineville make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Building facilities Officer, in the postcode of 2000.

my 12 year old daughter wants to study fashion and I hope that in 6 years time when she is ready that Tafe is there to provide her with an education.

Tafe is essential in helping young Australians acquire the skills they need in important "technical" caeers.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I feel the State Government budget cuts to Tafe are crippling it and I am genuinely

concerned for it's future.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it contributes to helping Australia being a strong, smart nation.

Submitted by

Matthew Holle of Erskineville

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Julie-Ann Robson, of Summer Hill make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Administrator and academic, in the postcode of 2130; 2116.

I attended TAFE (St George College of TAFE) as a mature aged student in order to complete my Higher School Certificate. This I did while working full-time, so it was necessary to attend evening classes. After completion of my HSC subjects I enrolled in and completed a Fine Art Certificate (ST George College of TAFE), again whilst working full time, and again by attending evening classes. After this, I completed a BA (Hons) in English and Philosophy at UNSW. I received First Class Honours, was awarded an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA), and went on to complete a PhD at ANU. My thesis was on Oscar Wilde's aesthetics. I could not have done my tertiary study without my study at TAFE.

I believe that TAFE contributes well to the Australian workforce, however it is severely underfunded, and far too reliant on a casualised workforce. Moreover, TAFE is increasingly undervalued as a learning institution, with far too much emphasis on the university sector, which is straining at the seams to accommodate more and more low SES students without the resources to support them.

My brother is a TAFE teacher, and each semester helps students who might otherwise have been left without skills. Again, trades are severely underfunded, and the funding for apprentices is far too low. It's almost impossible to live on an apprentice's wage.

No

Yes. I live in the inner west, and the number of 'colleges' located near the CBD has grown substantially over the last 10 years. These colleges appear to be 'fly by night' operations, exploiting vulnerable international students. Government regulation of these colleges may have tightened recently, but I do not believe it has tightened enough.

Yes. I studied Fine Art at TAFE, and am aware of a significant reduction in the numbers of people able to study art, due to the ridiculous rise in the cost of art courses. Moreover, the casualisation of TAFE teaching is an outrage.

Yes. I was considering undertaking some evening classes in art at Meadowbank TAFE, but the rise in costs for art courses is prohibitive. I have a colleague who chose to attend classes at the prestigious Julian Ashton college of art, as it was more affordable than studying art at TAFE.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the tertiary

sector in general, and TAFE in particular, require the best funding available in order to meet the pressing needs of our country -- Our education systems, both secondary and tertiary, receive woefully low funding. If Australia is to continue to advance in an increasingly changing world, it needs to ensure that all its citizens, are trained by intelligent, dedicated staff at well-funded institutions, not unlike those in the Scandinavian countries.

Submitted by

Julie-Ann Robson of Summer Hill

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Manuel Zacharias, of Brunswick West make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Accountant, in the postcode of 3055.

I have used Tafe before moving into University. There are not a great deal of alternatives after finishing high school.

Not all students progress at the same rate, teachers schools lower economic circumstances. Lots of New Australians use Tafe for transitional courses.

I am a senior accountant for the University of Melbourne. My son is currently studying at a Tafe.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Feedback from new employees who have had their course cut while enrolled. They then have to find an alternative if they have not completed by the time the cut is imposed.

We employ a lot of students from TAFE & University. Our Animal Tech's all are TAFE trained.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because

Submitted by

Manuel Zacharias of Brunswick West

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Heather Ashworth, of Springwood make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a library technician, in the postcode of 2750.

I went to TAFE from 1978-1981 and completed a certificate course (now a diploma course) in Library Practice. It was 4 years part time and I worked full time in a library in the city at the same time. TAFE taught me valuable skills and gave me the necessary ability to carry out my job successfully. I have also learned on the job as technology has changed.

My husband also went to TAFE to do a boilermaking apprenticeship and a journeymans course. He has been very successful with his career - TAFE ensured he could read and interpret plans and build various structures in steel from drawing given. He also received on the job training for pressure welding of tanks for LPG and petrol. He can build anything from steel staircases, handrails to hoppers for concrete plants etc.

TAFE is essential for developing practical skills required for tradies to carry out anything from fixing cars, wiring a house to building a house frame to assembling pipework for plumbing and drainage. We will always need good trades people to construct houses and other buildings and to fix our cars. Along with the hundreds of other courses that TAFE run it is an integral part of the education system that our community deserves to have - everyone is entitled to a good education post school. University is not for everyone and TAFE fills that gap.

I know a young man who does not like school and is very unhappy there. He has just turned 15 and has now been placed with TAFE to do a pre apprenticeship course for formwork and has organised to be appenticed to his Uncle who is a concreter. He goes to TAFE one day, works one day and attends school for 3 days per week. He is much happier. He will officially begin his apprenticeship next year.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

No not particularly.

Yes courses have been cut, teaching hours and numbers cut too.

Courses have been cut at some colleges.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it provides education in the gap between school and university. University is not for everyone, just the same as attending school to year 12 is not for everyone. TAFE is integral to the education system for the benefit of the community.

Submitted by

Heather Ashworth of Springwood

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Stephen Lee, of Heidelberg make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a tafe teacher, in the postcode of 3081.

I have been teaching and learning in the tafe system for over 28 years. I have had many wonderful experiences working with students from all walks of life mostly young men and some women in the building trades. I have formed many life long friendships with colleagues and wouldn't swap a moment of it except for the Jeff Kennet era which was demoralising and very unfair for tafe teachers.

Having been in the building industry for the past 40 years I have seen many areas that do not have licence protection and rely solely on the tradespeople possessing good knowledge and skills to undertake their chosen profession. TAFE gives those people the opportunity to learn, acquire knowledge and build skills in an environment without prejudice, supported by highly trained trade and technical teachers. Without this

opportunity most of the tradespeople in the industry would be focusing on a very narrow field of skill sets that are not sufficient to translate to the vast array of building techniques required for our industry to maintain its high quality and advance with new and emerging technologies and processes.

I have seen many disengaged young people who have forged a path for their future with a start at tafe, which I am sure would not have been the case if not for that opportunity. I teach, nurture and support people with mental illness, disengaged learners, people from correctional institutions, young people from youth at risk centres, people who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to reach their full potential and would otherwise be a burden on society but with a little assistance have become very competent, highly trained people contributing to society and making a good life for themselves and many others closely related to them.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means, if there are no direct job opportunities for young school leavers in their home town or nearby, then what do they do or where do they go? Having the opportunity to go to tafe and further their opportunities has got to be a positive move. Statistically there are more problems in rural areas where youth unemployment is high and there is no or little avenue for further study, you don't have to be Einstein to see it, do you? The small cost associated with tafe surely must out way the high costs associated with the burdens on society and individuals and their families and friends.

Absolutely, it is a joke and a terrible waste of funding to support some of these private providers. A simple solution would be to go to the apprentice/learner and their employer and ask them exactly how did they achieve competency and how was it assessed, but Governing bodies don't want to do this because they will only confirm what they already know, that the learning and assessment in some of these areas

especially in the building trades is of very poor standard. Government seem to want the user pays system to work at any cost and I hope that the people making these decisions have their next house or extension built by shonky tradies who have not been trained properly and don't have the sufficient skills and knowledge to build something that should last for generations, reap what you sow!

Most definately, we have had half the amount of people applying for our Certificate II places because it is too expensive for them. Unfortunately it is these people who need and would be benefitted by the assistance more than most and just cannot afford it. The other issue related to funding directly affects those that are in learning who rely on the support of student services such as reading and writing assistance which has been drastically reduced because our Institute just doesn't have the funds required for that support any more.

A position as a tafe teacher used to be considered a very satisfactory and sought after career, it has now become low paid, longer working hours with no real job security. Unfortunately people now see much better opportunities elsewhere and are not attracted to tafe teaching, this will only weaken the high standards that tafe have been able to build up over the years and run it down, which seems to everyone involved with tafe over the past few years to be the Government hidden agenda. If it is not the hidden agenda then someone needs to wake up soon and make some changes before it all falls over, which would be catastrophic for society in the future.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because without it there are going to be many people who in the past would have had the opportunity to advance their standing in life, but who are not going to get that opportunity in the future. Short term financial decisions are not the answer to our long term solutions for a better Australia. I beg you to not let the tafe system fall over, if you had the opportunity

to see the wonderful outcomes that have blossomed with a simple start at tafe you would be fighting just as hard as those that have been lucky enough to experience it.

Submitted by

Stephen Lee of Heidelberg

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Elspeth Gardner, of Carnegie make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Digital Sales Manager, in the postcode of 3066.

I spent 14 years out of the workplace raising 4 children. When my children were all at school I decided to return to work. I hadn't even used a computer in my last job. I enrolled in TAFE and did a Cert III in Business Administration. The TAFE was close to home, I was able to pay my fees in instalments and I learnt new skills. As soon as my course was finished I secured a full time job and have worked constantly since. Before TAFE, I didn't even know how to switch on a computer, now 14 years on, I work in cutting edge digital publishing. That's what TAFE did for me and does for many others.

My 4 children attended TAFE after leaving school. 2 have used their TAFE course as a means to gain entry to University as they didn't quite make the enter scores required.

The other 2 finished their TAFE course and went straight into well paid secure jobs. We are a family of 6, all working full time & paying tax - 5 of us went to TAFE.

Private colleges are springing up all over the city and in the suburbs.

Sadly Australia is following the UK's lead AGAIN! Why don't we learn from the mistakes the UK makes instead of blindly following their money grabbing, cost cutting measures.

I work for an academic publisher selling content into libraries. I have seen first hand how the TAFE budget has been systematically cut across the whole country. The TAFE libraries are no longer able to purchase current content. The death of a thousand cuts - slash the budgets meaning that TAFE's can't access current information which means that the courses are not completely up to date, which means that the State Government can point the finger and say that TAFE is no longer relevant!

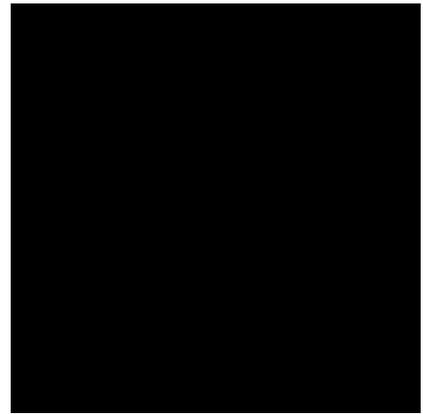
My son's fees have increased from \$100 in 2012 to \$500 in 2013 - which is the 2nd year of his course.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need an educated workforce who are able to access affordable & relevant training throughout their working life. Don't hand this asset over to the private sector that produce bogus certificates barely worth the paper they are printed on. Training needs to be regulated, governed and relevant. Adult education, in my opinion should be free to tax payers - what better asset can any country have than an educated & skilled workforce. We should never stop learning.

Submitted by

Elspeth Gardner of Carnegie

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Mark Goltz, of Wollongbar make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Teacher/Technical Assistant, in the postcode of 2477.

In 1989 I moved from Qld to the North Coast of NSW to set up a Macadamia farm. Not having paid work at the time I ended up at TAFE first studying horticulture and then moving on to study agriculture over a period of ten years to achieve an A.D of applied Science (Farm management). The knowelge I gained became very valueable to set up a viable macadamia farm. TAFE are the only training provider that provides this kind of hands on experience. I will always study with TAFE because it measures practability overlayed with knowelge which gives a versatile result."If we are to achieve a richer culture, rich in contrasting values, we must recognise the whole gamut of human potentialities, and so weave a less arbitrary social fabric, one in which each diverse human gift will find a fitting place." Margaret Mead

You may have worked out that I work for TAFE now and I am passionate about training farmers/young farmers and also young people from cities to find work in agriculture. In the last few months we trained 14 people in a pre employment farm group, at the end of the course 12 of them got work on farms. Employers in our area like workers that have been set up for work by TAFE with all the starting skills required.

At Wollongbar TAFE I teach cert 3, 4 production horticulture most of my students are young just getting a start in life or are mature and at a cross road in their lives. I have had many calls from passed students about them finding work, setting up businesses (Organic farming), Managing farms, and a lot just growing food in back yards and community gardens.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means a lot for our local farmers. The Macadamia industry on the North Coast of NSW produces the highest quality nuts in the world. Most of the farmers have been trained through short courses at TAFE by teachers who are involved with the industry. I believe TAFE can take a lot of credit for this. If we lost the funding and the ability to do this it would be a huge loss to the community in relation to industry support and to Farm safety.

Yes the Chainsaw course we do at TAFE level one, other providers do it in half the time. I worry about the safety aspects with such a dangerous machine. Another one is the chemical certificate time slashed. Many students have had to come to TAFE to complete the course again to feel competent to operate.

Many farmers want to do short courses that is difficult now. My Daughter did her Diploma in fashion at TAFE Wollongbar because it had the best facilities in NSW now it is closing.

Most of my students have little money so less students less job training.

We have been asked to increase class numbers (less classes) to 15 plus. I don't mind that, the worry is, is it safe, 20 students with grafting knives, 12 students with chainsaws, Tractor driving. It should be safety before money.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because I think TAFE will play a major part in the future training people locally, with rising fuel cost, world food shortage, building community awareness, ability and confidence to do business.

Submitted by

Mark Goltz of Wollongbar

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Marguerite Rummery, of Blackheath make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a TAFE teacher, in the postcode of 2785.

I have been a full time TAFEteacher since 1996 at Loftus, Randwick (moved 2001) and Blue Mountains Campus (since 2010) I teach in the Massage Therapy Department. I have stayed so long in TAFE because I can maintain my enthusiasm and passion for education because every year I see students giving education another chance and changing their life direction through education. In TAFE people can get another chance with all the support they need through Access departments and/or disability funding if they have a disability. I was briefly a high school system and I saw a percentage of students for whom the school system failed. At TAFE they get another chance. Also, I have also seen students with university education come to TAFE to learn skills that are directly employment related that they felt were lacking in their university education. I have seen this as a member of a department that taught

fitness.

As a full time teacher who could spread my on site hours over 4 days it enable me to continue a practice as a massage therapist and naturopath which contributed to my ability to relate what I was teaching to fresh work place situations.

TAFE is very work skills based. They are taught by people who are working in the industry or whom had a strong experience of working in the industry. Our department offers a work place training situation through our massage clinic. All teachers have a Cert IV in Workplace Assessment and training so they are able to assess students on the job. People can remain in the workplace and study at TAFE through flexible learning packages and on site training and assessment.

Not everyone is cut out for university. TAFE is very hands on and people who are not academically minded can learn at TAFE with the support offered through ACCESS and disability funding and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander funding.

TAFE teaches skills and qualifications that are not covered at university. TAFE is where people study to learn a trade.

I think if we didn't have TAFE funded as it is, we would have a huge percentage of unemployed, unhappy and disgruntled people and we would start seeing riots as have been occurring in England recently due to cuts in social funding.

I have a friend recently retired as an aeronautical engineer, who started at TAFE doing aircraft engineering. He'd not done well in the school system but found when he got to TAFE that he had an aptitude for studying and went onto university to aeronautical engineering and had a very successful career.

We had two students who were a couple, recently graduate from our Aromatherapy course in Blue Mountains TAFE. The man was aboriginal and had some learning

difficulties. His partner (was not aboriginal) had had severe agrophobia and whilst she'd overcome it somewhat over the 12 months she'd been with him, prior to meeting him she'd not left the house for 20 years (from the age of 16 to 36).

Through funding through Aboriginal support services the man was able to get special assistance to help him in his learning. His partner was also able to access some help through Disabilities funding. Most of their learning was done in class with every one else but when occasion called on it they were able to get individual tuition. Both were long term unemployed when they came. They found they had a natural aptitude for massage and a love of aromatherapy oils and felt inspired to keep up their studies as they wanted to do something for their community. Because of the small nature of the college and the way in which staff are able to offer support and make adjustments for special needs these two became good therapists and were able to graduate. Once they were ready to treat the public in our public clinic and go out into the community to massage they received great feedback. The woman who'd only a few years earlier had been unable to leave the house due to severe anxiety, spoke at graduation to a room full of people about her experience at TAFE. Just before the graduation ceremony, they had both been given work (providing aromatherapy and massage) at a weekend for indigenous people in their community and to women who'd been affected by trauma and domestic violence. They'd received great feedback and had really enjoyed being able to help people in this way.

Our Cert IV Aromatherapy is no longer running under a funded model. We hope to be able to offer some commercial courses for graduated massage students but this has not happened yet.

Every semester there are always a few stand out cases of people who've come from very difficult circumstances. There is a student I have now who has just started. She tells me with tears in her eyes that she is determined to succeed. She left school at 16, had her first child at 17 - raised 4 all together mainly as a single parent, and now

they are grown up she is determined to work at something other than cleaning. She is 36. She is making use of all available help through the library in the tutorials run by Access on computer use and assignment writing. She is working really hard at her subjects. I have no doubt that she will course complete and become a successful massage therapist. I have seen many like her. After just one term she says her life has changed.

I have seen many young people who were very disappointed by their HSC results come and study massage at TAFE. Then on graduation of a Diploma they are able to go onto the university course they are interested in and support themselves through massage. Those that have gone on to related disciplines like osteopathy or physiotherapy have told me they always value and use their massage skills.

One of the owners of a very successful massage business in the blue mountains came through Blue mountains TAFE. I was not at the campus when she was training but I am told she had some learning struggles to get through early on but got through them with the right support and has become a really good therapist. Her clinic employs several of our new graduates every year. She also does humanitarian work in Africa every year and massages the most disenfranchised people - people with AIDS, orphans and children and people with severe burns.

I live in the Blue Mountains. our students come from greater Western Sydney and out as far as Bathurst or Oberon. We are the only college that is an RTO, in the district offering training in Complementary Therapies. Otherwise they would have to go to Sydney.

The Blue Mountains has a high number of people on Centrelink or disability government funding. The general income in the upper mountains and around

Lithgow is not high. Nor is it high in greater western Sydney. Having TAFE in reasonable proximity and having courses funded gives people the nudge and the vision to give study a go. I doubt whether people from low socio economic groups will pay commercial prices.

Yes, the massage therapy course at NSW TAFE is the most rigorous in the state. TAFE was originally approached by the Association of Massage Therapists (AMT) to run a course with rigorous training and standards (similar to what was happening with massage in the US and Canada). Since then the whole massage and complementary therapies industry has had it's training regulated by training packages and government policies like the Health Care Complaints Commission and private health funds consulting with industry groups. Nevertheless the nature of the training package leaves interpretation wide open.

There is a huge difference between colleges (even RTOs) as to how long they teach subjects for, the amount of public clinic hours completed and the level of supervision at them. There are even some colleges offering 'on line' training even for the practical subjects. These colleges are asking students to find a therapist to work with. I hate to think how this would work in practice. How could someone get the necessary training assisting another therapist working on his/her clients? And why would a paying client agree to have a student try all these various massage skills on them?

I have assessed many students for RPL from a wide variety of training colleges and see every day the huge variety in training.

There has also been a training college close to us who is not an RTO who has been training people from greater Western Sydney - but then the students find out they cannot get membership with any professional associations because the college was not an RTO. These students then come to us to finish off. Sadly, they have to do a

great deal more study because of the poor training they received at the other college. Fortunately, through the work of ASQUA these colleges are having to change the name of the qualification they give but the public still gets duped.

We have had funding for our aromatherapy course and shiatsu course cut completely. I did a survey of the number of our shiatsu students on Centrelink payments and it was about 80%. Shiatsu as a therapy radically changes people's lifestyle choices. There has been a large qualitative study done on this in England. It was shown that people receiving shiatsu regularly, completely change their diets and lifestyle to a healthier one. This has huge implications for the costs of the public health system.

Moving up here from the Eastern Suburbs I have been completely stunned by the level of obesity I see just by walking around Penrith Plaza or the shops in Lithgow. I believe Shiatsu training in the community would help change things.

We have had huge cuts to our Outdoor Recreation Course when the Blue Mountains is a World Heritage Area and the department that runs them is considered to be 'the' place to train in it. The full time staff has been cut from 6 to 3. As a tourist destination it seems madness for the Blue Mountains to down size it's training in this industry and to risk lowering safety standards within the industry by budget cuts.

I have noticed that the available tuition hours for aboriginal students and students with disabilities has been radically cut.

I have been personally asked to offer some of my units flexibly through on line courses. Whilst this has not been finalised the implication seems to be that then I will get paid less hours to deliver them. I can see the necessity and sense to comply with some of this and I am happy to make adjustments where necessary, but I am concerned that if all theoretical courses are considered suitable for 'online' and the available teaching

hours get subsequently reduced that we will have very poor course completion rates. At other campuses I know of, where they are putting things on line, the teachers are still getting paid the same number of hours per week as they were before with face to face delivery. What they are finding is that following up with the students and facilitating and supporting the students takes up the same number of hours or even more than face to face teaching.

I think this needs to be nussed out more. Also, I doubt that many of our students will manage the theoretical subjects being delivered solely on line. From my experience, I have observed that perhaps 20% of our students at Blue Mountains manage completely delivered independent learning. (And I've been able to provide this for them at times) The bulk of students like to come to class and find many of the theoretical subjects quite difficult and they need a more formal teaching lesson and consistent facilitation. I think TAFE will need to offer both - classroom and on line delivery for subjects, to be competitive in the market place. Most of the private colleges in complementary therapies and universities are offering both options.

We have also had to leave the office earlier to save costs on our general assistants. Personally I have adapted but it does make it very difficult to complete admin tasks in the available time.

It means that less people are choosing to study courses that were previously offered through government funding. Students say they may as well go to university and incur a huge debt if they are going to have to take out VET fee help.

Some students have 'fallen through the cracks' because the special needs funding has been cut back and have not been able to course complete.

Staff morale is low as the first stage of changes have not been managed well.

The increase in fees has had an impact on some students living on limited means -

particularly the single mothers from impoverished circumstances. I have a couple of students who sometimes can't afford the train fare from western Sydney to come to class.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because if not, in ten to fifteen years time we shall have serious social problems in our community and in our state.

TAFE changes people's lives in a very fundamental way. It gives them choices and the chance to study something and gain employment in an industry they feel passionate about. The broad range of funded courses has meant a broader range of people have been able to use its services and get training and employment. Access, Aboriginal and Disability support has meant that learning is accessible to everyone. This funding has to continue to make it equitable.

Submitted by

Marguerite Rummery of Blackheath

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Verna Aslin, of Armidale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a TAFE librarian, in the postcode of 2350.

I have worked for TAFE NSW in a librarian/student support role for 30 years

It offers the only credible opportunity in my town for students to learn the trades. It also offers a wide range of other courses, for which only a few are offered by other providers. It provides grass-roots training for employment. This TAFE college has turned out many thousands of work-ready graduates in my 30 years of employment.

I have seen many many students come to TAFE from diverse backgrounds, either from disadvantage or as a result of poor choices in their earlier years. They either lack basic education, or study aptitude, or indeed work skills or orientation. For those who wish to change, intensive help from sympathetic dedicated career teachers and other support

staff can help them turn their lives around and go on to productive work lives.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means that options for career futures are provided that would otherwise be lacking. Young people are able to stay in their home town, which is often more economical for them. The town has the chance to employ people who are trained here, rather than losing them to other centres. As we have a university here, students who need more intensive support (eg ESL or tertiary preparation) can prepare and gain credit at TAFE for their subsequent tertiary study. This makes Armidale a strong educational centre.

There are no private colleges as such in the town as far as I am aware. There are private providers, but none that own any facilities or have any support infrastructure comparable with TAFE. The market in TAFE is just not big enough for commercial interest other than the ones who come to town briefly, or offer online courses.

Fees have steadily risen to the point where they must give students pause. It's a shame the community can't subsidize courses to a greater extent though our taxes - that used to be the case - what has happened that we can't afford it now? I regret the loss of enrichment courses eg art, sewing and home carpentry, which added such a lot to the community skills base and quality of life. Not all productivity is productivity in the workplace! (although I realize it must take precedence). The theory was that private enterprise would provide these courses, however this hasn't happened to any great extent.

As mentioned our fine arts courses have gone. A building only 7 years old now stands empty! what sort of economy is that?

For the rest, so far we have only been threatened with cuts to our operational budgets - that is yet to come. Equipment grants seem to have evaporated though, leaving us with

a puzzle as to how to replace ageing equipment.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need skilled workers that can enter the workplace, be productive straight away, and build careers for themselves. Why are we importing so many foreign workers, are we too cheap to train our own people? There are people about who would be permanently on the scrapheap if TAFE didn't offer them the chance to turn their lives around and have the self-esteem of productive work. Private providers will cherry-pick the training market and ignore the needs of disadvantaged students and also not offer the courses which need expensive infrastructure. TAFE has always been the poor relation of the educational sector and needs strengthening not weakening by being constantly drained of funding. Governments at all levels and all political colours have talked down TAFE non-stop over the past 20 years in an attempt to privatise this educational sector. This will not work and is not in the interests of our young people.

Submitted by

Verna Aslin of Armidale

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Norah Elias, of Kogarah make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a full-time teacher, in the postcode of 2217.

I started my tertiary education at TAFE as a mature aged student because it was affordable and realized my academic potential which lead me to a further 9 years study at university.

This lead me to a full-time position at TAFE as a retail teacher for the last 20 years. During this period I have guided and supported my students to achieve their goals and ambition. Most of my students are from NESB and some have high level education from their homeland but struggle to enter the workforce. My classes also include students with special needs and early school leavers.

My students usually start at CII Retail then move on to CIII and then the Diploma in

Retail and a few have continued through to university. The workplace component in CII and CIII gives the opportunity for my students to enter the workforce.

Over the last 20 years I have seen TAFE provide many opportunities for people to gain a tertiary qualification and help them find a job.

If I didn't have the opportunity to start my education at TAFE I wouldn't be here today to tell my little story.

TAFE has teachers who are well qualified, experienced and committed. TAFE provides relevant industry courses, resources and training second-to-none.

My students include early school leavers and are given additional support together with the opportunity to complete a work placement program. The focus is always to enhance students' confidence through the teachers' expertise and team effort together with practical work in the College simulated retail shop fitted out with an advanced POS system, equipment and products.

NO

I have known employers who complain about private providers poor training practices.

TAFE budget cuts will take away the opportunities for students to continue their journey to gain a qualification through the additional support and expertise that TAFE teachers provide to help them get a job.

Some students who wish to further their education find the fees not affordable and therefore postpone their studies. Significant TAFE cuts will mean lack of opportunity to

train people and put them in the workforce.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because of the opportunities it provides students to gain a qualification and enter the workforce through its quality training and education.

Submitted by

Norah Elias of Kogarah

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Patrice Butinar, of Dalyston make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a ohs officer, in the postcode of 3992.

I left school after year 10 then worked numerous jobs and ended up in office work, got married then worked in hospitality and we bought hospitality businesses, raised our children and realised small businesses was to small to support our superannuation! As a 47 year old I went back to schol for the first time in 30 years to our local tafe to start a Cert III in Administration so I could get back into the paid work force. Fortunately for at the time Tafe had a job skills program which supported tafe students to get current skills in the local businesses for 3 months and again fortunately for me the local shire supported the program, I got through the interview process and secured 3 months work, this would be great for my resume! I then went on to apply for a position at the local shire and have never looked back:) My super is growing and I get paid for annual leave which never ever happened when we had our own business, well we never took

a holiday!!! My position supports 60 home care staff and I am also a training offer so we use the local tafe "Chisholm" to do lots of training. They are accessible, approachable, professional and committed to providing a training service to the community! I love it!

Tafe helped me to help myself, empowerment of the community with knowledge and skill is extremely important and benefits flow on the growth and development of Australia! I honed my skills at Tafe and learned new ones, but most of all I held my head high as an adult learner and felt encouraged! I have gone on completed 4 other certificates in Cert IV community services, disability, training and assessment, and a diploma in OHS (work in progress)...

Where I work in local government and we offer 3 traineeships every year for Cert III Home and Community Care, so it gives opportunities for paid work and study. I very proud of this and the trainees and Chisholm tafe who do a fantastic job! The traineeship is only offered if they don't have any qualifications past cert II, so this helps job seekers gain skills and knowledge. Some successful trainees have gone on to further studies at a cert IV level in disability and nursing, so this traineeship scheme is seeding the future health needs of the community....love it!

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...everything to me as I have 3 grown up children who have also used Tafe for courses, ie first aid, white and red certificates, hospitality (chef), plumber and so on.....this is the future generation who need support like tafe in regional areas as they can't travel to melbourne etc as public transport here is hopeless, YOUTH NEED REGIONAL TAFE! yes i am deeply concerned about their funding...it just sucks TAFE is about knowledge skills and empowerment for young job seekers, why would you cut funding to this, youth suicide is on the rise.....give them a future please!!!!

Yes, my daughter is a 22year old hairdresser studing diploma in business management....the trainer comes out to her salon and it's sort on line as well! Last week her trainer told her to stop everything (she is 3 assignments in, and 1/2 of one nearly done, 4 to go) as he hasn't been paid so he is not working until that is resolved, possibly the training company is folding!!!! What the??? how can she finish now.....see what privatisation of training does!!! Don't let the government cut funds to Tafes!

some course have been cut like hospitality

Government has completely de stabilised the Tafe system, staff must be struggling with morale and job security! They may lose good staff to other industries, this effects students confidence! Surely Tafe have been able to demonstrate outputs and performance indicators to assure their existance, if not they need to do this.....Hands off the Tafe system

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because our community need this training service as it's the only professional one here!!!! a 4 hour return trip to attend tafe in Berwick would be unmanagable!!!! and costly, Chisholm is very professional and has an extensive profile with the community including job seekers, youth and workers. Sure have fee increases that are reasonable be more inovativte, anyone can slash courses etc but show some creativity and commitment....pleeeaaassee!

Submitted by

Patrice Butinar of Dalyston

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Pam Somerville, of Eatons Hill make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Admin Manager, in the postcode of 4031.

I began part-time study for an Advanced Diploma Business at Brackenridge in 1997. This gave me the incentive to complete an MBA as an external part-time student with USQ by 2007.

It expands the horizons of students and opens up opportunities for furthering careers adn to continue onto further study for all ages.

Further study later in life was a great experience for me personally. The teachers were committed and enthusiastic and inspiring. The classes catered to all generations with school leavers, to mature students such as myself. The program was well structured and designed to cater for part time study.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is a viable alternative within the community to access and engage in further study. This is of direct benefit to the community in that the qualified students will continue to contribute immediately to the workforce and the economy longterm.

Submitted by

Pam Somerville of Eatons Hill

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Joan Jordan, of Northcote make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a library technician, in the postcode of 3070.

I was a late bloomer I completed my year 12 at night school completed a diploma of arts (early childhood) & worked in local government children services for over 10 years. After having children I continued to work in a part time capacity but after hours meetings was difficult to manage with a young family. TAFE gave me the opportunity to return to study. Having not studied for a while it was a very supportive environment & also the fees were affordable (this was a major factor as money was tight). TAFEs are instrumental in helping students who are not highly academic obtain qualifications and the structures of the courses often include work placements (mine resulted in me obtaining a permanent position in the school library I had my placement in). A close friend was set on becoming a marine biologist but missed out on an offer, she completed a diploma of animal husbandry at TAFE & was then successful in obtaining

an offer to complete a marine biology degree. TAFE meets the needs of many people hoping to obtain a qualification it would be a disaster to lose this.

see above

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because without it many Australians would be unable to further their studies and obtain qualifications

Submitted by

Joan Jordan of Northcote

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Julie Nitschke, of Toowoomba make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 4350.

On leaving school I began a hairdressing apprenticeship and as part of that attended block at Tafe. I then went on to own my own salon and employ apprentices who attended Toowoomba Tafe. After many years I decided I wanted to give back so began study and eventually applied to work at Tafe. My story is one of a cyclic process and I feel demonstrates the importance of the Tafe system and is one that is replicated across our state.

By allowing freedom of choice, I have seen Tafe contribute from school based trainees/apprentices and still allow these students to continue on with higher education. Tafe provides the time to make a smart choice as to what sector people fit into best. Upskilling, RPL, flexible delivery also allow for choice and when given

choices students feel empowered to be in control of their own learning and this is why Tafe provides successful outcomes.

As a young student I left school at the age of 15 to begin my apprenticeship. through attending Tafe as an apprentice and building great relationships with Tafe through my staff attending it inspired me to teach. Tafe helped me get my BSZ qualification and also gave me the confidence to then go on and successfully study education at university. Without the support and guidance of caring Tafe teachers I would have not had the self belief to do this.

In the time I have worked at TAFE there have had many complaints from students who have begun their study at private colleges/RTO's who then come to us to complete their qualification. We have also had a situation where one of these private RTO's has issued qualifications when not registered and has issued qualifications where the student has not been competent and the Department has sent this student to us for further training at a cost to the Department and not the private RTO. The private RTO in our area is of great concern as to quality, validity of qualifications and the reliability of their assessment.

The budget cuts have had a terrible impact, we have lost nearly all of our admin support staff which increases our workload as instructors. Staff are constantly worried for the security of their jobs. As of last year a target for one teacher was to bring in a revenue of \$210,000.00 and within a year it has increased to \$235,000.00 per teacher. We are being made cut programs and are faced with students having to study elsewhere to complete their study. It is all about the \$ and not about the student. We run a full time program in hairdressing and with the new pricing structure it will have to increase from \$11,000.00 to 18,500.00 which out prices us with competitors and our prospective students so we are concerned even more jobs will be lost.

State wide the cuts have meant that our staff development budget has been drastically cut. As I am a hairdressing teacher it is important to be current in both assessment and our industry training group. I am now funding all my own hairdressing training in order to provide current delivery in line with training package requirements. Also as we were Lead Institute for our area we no longer have funding to support our teaching and learning network which was instrumental in providing consistency across the state for hairdressing training. These cuts all eventually affect the quality of delivery and student outcomes.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded as this funding helps support currency of our teachers in both assessment and within their Industry area, administrative support of teachers so they can concentrate on teaching, the provision of support services for students. Also funding to students so that they can afford to undertake training. A well funded organisation has the ability to employ well trained teachers/instructors to ensure successful outcomes for both students and the TAFE brand. TAFE is an integral part of training and skilling for all ages within Queensland.

Submitted by

Julie Nitschke of Toowoomba

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Susan Gibson-Lake, of Thornlands make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

TAFE is very important to young and older people as not everyone achieves the standard needed to enter University, and some people do not have the financial capacity to enter the University system. There should always be an affordable venue for further learning for all people from all walks of life that covers all that is involved in today's work environment from Hairdressing to Plumbing to Nursing. I myself have benefited from TAFE learning and the class environment. The other side that I see is the potential land grab. TAFE complexes are on large areas of land that is now prime real estate, and I believe there is a big push now to close down TAFE complexes for that reason, to enable the State Government to obtain monies from the sale of these large land areas to developers who will take control of the land and divide it up into high density housing.

Submitted by

Susan Gibson-Lake of Thornlands

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Barbara Bee, of PETERSHAM make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a doctoral studentt, in the postcode of 2007.

Over 30 years teaching second chance adult learners how to enter, re-enter TAFE and further studies courses, particularly mature age, working class women, semi literate adults and immigrants.

In comparison to how it used to operate as a viable and repected option between higher education and further education,In its present administrative structure which is beholden to employer and business demands,the downgraded professional status of its teachers to trainers, the undue time and effort on assessment and reporting and top heavy management ,it cannot help the development workplace skills now or for the future. Many TAFE staff have lost confidence in structure and organization. Used to dvelop not only skills, but relevant information about how to access

employment and more importantly, improve self esteem and confidence-disadvantaged learners developed critical thinking capabilities and communities benefitted from social capital and improved communication skills.

IN 30 years of both co-ordinating and teaching disadvantaged adults, I have witnessed the transformation of many lives from welfare dependency and hopelessness into capable, confident learners who transfer their skills successfully to the employment sector

TAFE Outreach programs in regional and isolated communities throughout NSW have provided a myriad of educational courses and skills tailored to meet the specific needs of the people who are geographically and/or socially isolated from access to mainstream adult education. Women in particular have been able to give support to their partners in drought-stricken areas by learning how to keep accounts via TAFE courses.

Huge potential for eco-farming, wool classing, water management and soil erosion programs. TAFE has the record and the best organization for these sorts of programs. REFER OUTREACH

No experience in this matter

No longer employed in TAFE so cannot comment specifically, but it is common knowledge through media reports and protests by caring TAFE staff and some students that TAFE is being drastically downgraded into a privatised fee-paying training organization with no concern for its responsibilities as a public service.

No experience since not teaching in a TAFE college any longer

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦It has a charter to serve the general public, not the private sector, business or governments, the latter who have always used TAFE as a political football (refer former NSW State Liberal Greiner/Metherell government)

Submitted by

Barbara Bee of PETERSHAM

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, hayley hungerford, of nebo make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a librarian, in the postcode of 4742.

I taught nursing at university and came across students who had been to TAFE for enrolled nursing courses, aged care, community courses etc and had found it a great learning environment but these same students struggled at university as the learning style is different (academic) rather than practical and theory. I have attended as a student the equivalent of TAFE in the UK and we need to keep different types of education institutions as we are individuals with different learning needs

Not everyone has the capacity, or the desire to go to university, so there needs to be an alternative to further study and education. Australians should have a choice how and what they learn. TAFE offers a variety of courses and trades that are the backbone of the Australian economy. If we do not train our workforce, we will be

importing workers (like everything else - food, clothes - the list is endless) Australia needs to be reliant on itself, not other countries!

TAFE is also a valuable social, learning background, especially for those in regional areas. Not everyone can travel or afford university if they wish further study.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we are losing valuable trades people and skills and it is expensive to find qualified people for jobs or services we need, and in regional areas we have to wait so long for services or jobs to be done!

Submitted by

hayley hungerford of nevo

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Peter Pocock, of Eerwah Vale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a Telecommunications Technician, in the postcode of [REDACTED] 4560.

Plain and simple; without TAFE I would not have my Trade. As a younster, I would never have made it to Uni. and without TAFE, well.... My children, have also taken different paths then the Uni path. Once again, with no TAFE; no cigar, and watch the unemployment figures grow!

From a trade perspective for example; if you need to look for a job in the mechanical / fitting field, and you were required to do some arc or electric welding, and had no experience doing that. You could let your new potential Employer know that I'm in the middle of doing a basic welding course, or I can book into a welding course if you so desire etc etc. This is where TAFE fits in. This is only one example of myriads of

courses that TAFE run that cannot be accessed affordably anywhere else. To cut down on TAFE is dumb!

If you are not wired for Uni, without TAFE, what then? In a work force where Employees want experience, how are you going to get experience unless you have atleast done an introductory course or Cert 2 or 3 course in something to help you get the job? You only have to listen to conversations in the workplace; "If I leave this job, I'm going to go to TAFE to do such and such to get qualifications to go and do this or that etc etc.

In the area I live in there is a Uni and three or four different TAFE campuses; the point is, not everyone is going to have the required passes to go to Uni. Nor would the average middle class income earner be able to send their kids to Uni. Should we lower the standard for acceptance into Uni? Of course not.

No, this has not affected me personally, but like everything else the Government cuts, it creates an industry of related businesses related to what was cut. For example; Social Security, was once the unemployment agency. Now you have every man and his dog doing it. The same with colleges, online and face to face popping up everywhere. It's all being outsourced.

Only in regard to Teacher friends I know, who sacked a lot of their Contract Teachers (breaking their contracts). One in particular, was asked to come back after he was sacked to work for an hourly rate with no contract. What does this show??

Like all industries, as above, Nothing is ever going to run smoothly without competent staff and enough of them to do the job properly.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because Universities will become unobtainable for the average Joe. It's like it's all going back to the old days; Uni will be for the wealthy elite. Without TAFE, there is no Trade Training.

Submitted by

Peter Pocock of Eerwah Vale

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Paula Clark, of Speers Point make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a public servant, in the postcode of 2284.

I have attended TAFE on 3 separate occasions. Once prior to commencing FT work in office administration and twice during my ongoing employment to update skills in keyboarding and personnel management. My husband left school at 16 to commence a trade as a Fitter/Machinist. His trade qualifications were gained via TAFE. Several years later following retrenchment from the steel industry in the early 80s he again returned to TAFE to gain his HSC. This enabled him to gain entry to University to undergo teacher training as an Industrial Arts teacher using both his trade qualification and HSC. He again returned to TAFE following a return to private enterprise after teaching for a few years and gained qualifications in a TAFE marketing course to assist in his private enterprise role. He returned to teaching in 2000 teaching in both industrial arts and computer studies. During this time he gained further TAFE

qualifications via correspondence to qualify him to teach Vocational Education Computer courses to his students. He is now a Vocational Education & Training Head Teacher who guides some 130 students at his high school through many different VET TAFE courses as part of their HSC. My own son who is in year 11 has this year commenced a VET correspondence course in IT as part of his own HSC studies. I also have 2 brothers who also completed TAFE trade qualifications. One as an Electrician and the other as a Boilermaker.

TAFE is an institution that provides low cost training to the majority and is easily accessible to all. It has kept up to date with current career trends and provides relevant training for the job market for school leavers or people wanting to update their training and skills who are already employed.

As mentioned above TAFE provided a stepping stone to University for my husband following retrenchment from the steel industry at the age of 20 and has continued to keep his skills updated in other ways that have supplemented his teaching degree.

I live in Newcastle and therefore have access to several TAFE sites but both my husband and currently my son have also had access to study courses via correspondence that have not been available locally or at suitable times which I think is evidence of cuts already made to TAFE programs.

The same range of courses that in past years would have been available in TAFE have already been impacted by the introduction of private providers. Not everybody can afford to pay high fees. TAFE has always been available as a means of gaining skills for those people unable to pay for private tuition. This should remain for the future of

the workforce. Not everybody aspires to or is capable of studying at University.

Even though I live in Newcastle and have access to various TAFE sites, the appropriate strand of Certificate 3 in Information Technology VET was not available to my son this year as part of his HSC studies. He is however studying via correspondence via an arm of Tamworth TAFE. He may have been able to attend lectures locally if cuts had not already been made.

TAFE has supported many members of my family in previous years and continues to do so. It would be a shame to continue reducing funding. TAFE requires an increase in funding to reintroduce courses that it has been forced to forego as a result of funding cuts. An affordable tertiary training institution (TAFE) is required for current and future generations to gain appropriate and relevant work skills for their own future advancement and to assist employers to recruit appropriately qualified employees particularly in the apprenticeship area.

Submitted by

Paula Clark of Speers Point

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Sonya evanian, of Cronulla make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a community service worker, in the postcode of 2230.

In August my job will become redunant, so this year I enroled in Tafe to improve my numerously and literacy skills, as I was diagnosed with specific learning difficulties. I will need to find a job soon. I only have certificates no degree or diploma to my credit. So finding another job that suits my experience will be difficult also due to my age and the fact that I only have equivilent experience to most jobs I apply for.

Since starting Tafe I have already improved in my written skills, still doing my best to pick up numerancy skills as I am dyslexic in numbers and numerancy. Without the guidance of my Teacher Jenny and her being able to focus on us individually as it is a small class I would not have confidence to apply for a new job.

It has given me the hope of a 2nd chance, cause I know if I improve my written and numeracy skills I can further my education to help me find a suitable job.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

It means alot to me and my classmates, we don't mind travelling to Tafe as it is affordable to enrol, especially when you live on a minimal budget.

No I haven't but there are 2 students in our class who left the private sector as they felt their educator focused on one theme and not give individual attention to those who were slower at catching up with new information as others.

Where I go at Gympie, it seems like a ghost town. Very few course available. However they do concentrate on Trade services such as builders plumbers hairdressing.

Teachers are worried that if the numbers drop in their class room that the course may become redundant in the near future. As a result, more people won't have the chance to improve their skill for them to get the confidence to find work.

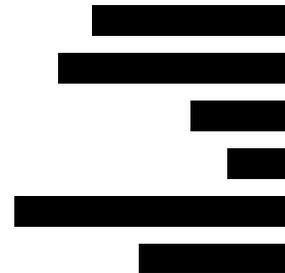
I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because I have noticed how important it is to get educated, build up new skills so you can get back into the work force. Without tafe I would probably be depressed as I would see that there is no help out there for me. I can't go to University due to my specific learning difficulties and the fact that I have only a school certificate which doesn't get you far in the future work force. I love going to Tafe 2 days a week, knowing that every week my skills in writing will improve and give me the confidence to write resumes and CV for jobs I will be apply for. I can't afford to go to university either and need to be employed full time. Presently they cut my hours at work and I am desperate to find full time employment. I have applied for 3 jobs with no return reply, it is a big burden not know how future

employment will be for me. After I finish the course I am doing this year, I want to enter a nursing course to work in hospitals or nursing homes. Please No more cut backs,, teachers at Tafe are wonderful patient people who want the best out come for their students

Submitted by

Sonya evanian of Cronulla

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Michael Thomas, of Bulimba make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Finance Manager, in the postcode of 4171.

My first interaction with TAFE was in 1986 when I started an Associate Diploma in Business right through to the completion of my Advanced Diploma in Business (Accounting) in December 2001. In that time the staff and TAFE supported me in nurturing my learning desires and enabled me to learn part-time and earn fulltime.

Without TAFE people will be limited in how they can achieve their goals. There are many skills that are taught at TAFE that are not available elsewhere in the community at an affordable price. The cost of University for some people is a barrier to entering the tertiary education system (Which by the way should be left alone as well) and ensures that education and training is only for the rich and well off.

My younger brother was struggling at a conventional high school where we lived and my parents were able to enrol him in a course of study at a TAFE where he successfully studied to become a qualified motor mechanic. Without this opportunity, he along with many others would have either struggled at high school often disrupting their learning and the students around them or dropped out of the school system all together and gone down the less productive route (ie. Unemployment benefits, low self-esteem, poorer socio-economic lifestyle, etc.).

There are a few other stories with similar themes. TAFEs fill an education gap that can't be filled for one reason or another by high schools or tertiary institutes.

Recognised Training Organisations (RTOs) are not always the solution either to our crisis in education Australians. Australians deserve a great education system, including TAFE, to build our community and maintain our current standard of living.

Whilst not living in a big area in western Victoria, being able to attend TAFE means that I didn't miss out on the learning opportunities my big city cousins are afforded. I was able to study at TAFE, take the new skills I had acquired and apply them directly into my community. The fact that I was able to learn in my local community meant that I did not need to stress about being away from family and friends, there were no additional cost of housing and living away from home expenses that would have burdened me living away from my support base.

There are many private learning facilities that seem keen to take your money but often fail to produce results. A network of poorly regulated private colleges that charge high fees but appear to fail to meet the minimum standard of skills that they are chartered to deliver is reprehensible. There are some private, well run education facilities that deliver great results and achieve high standards of skills in their graduates. TAFE consistently delivers results and education at an affordable rate.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because without TAFE our community education standards will drop due to peoples inability to fund their own education. We will see good people unable to get suitable training so that they contribute to maintaining our high standards of living and education.

Submitted by

Michael Thomas of Bulimba

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Barbara Riedel, of Bronte make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a APS 6, in the postcode of 2060.

I did a few short courses, but the one most important was related to the electron microscopy hands on introduction. It really boosted my employability as a researcher.

As I mentioned above a hands on learning is very important. The good basics in the theory and a lot of controlled practice.

There is no better place that TAFE to improve the skills, especially when one need to be redeployed or acquire the Australian practice experience. As it was in my case. The dedication of the teaching staff is there and the fair judgment as well- in the contrary to the private colleges driven by profit only.

No I do not leave in a regional area, however I understed and see the potential problem for the development of the Australia workforce if TAFE teaching will be rduced due to the finances cut.

Yes, I did. There was a time when the private hairdressing collages grew like mushrooms due to the emigration policy - "short List ". Being the customer of the relatively low cost services I noticed that the level of training there was not as good as in the TAFE.

not yet

no expirience

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is a place of the honest teaching not driven by making buckets of money for the owners!

Submitted by

Barbara Riedel of Bronte

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Alan Cinis, of Little Wobby Beach make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Producer, in the postcode of 2256.

I have a 6th Grade Education and when I went to school my life was devastated by the death of my father in 1968. I was treated as an idiot at school and never felt I could learn anything outside my Career as an Actor. I did my Maritime Coxswain's Ticket at TAFE and past all my tests. I use that learning everyday as now, I live on the Hawkesbury River with boat access only. The self esteem and finally the realisation I could learn and be very proficient at things like motors, Maritime rules and that in an extreme situation I can manage and handle emergencies for myself and the Community. I am hoping to further my education with more practical education and would like to know that I have TAFE to do that with.

TAFE is practical, hands on, education and a must. It is a choice that should be there

for an evolved, democratic Community. Choice is what REAL FREEDOM is all about. Isn't it!? TAFE surpassed my expectations and in doing so I surpassed my own educational expectations. You have no idea how good that felt.

My Son, was doing badly at High School and was Bullied and Suicidal. HE finished his schooling with TAFE and is going into Uni mid year. I now am able to live the lifestyle I only dreamed about, but could not be doing now without major problems and ignorance had I not finished my TAFE Course.

I can't say directly how budget cuts have effected TAFE, only that, Of Course TAFE or any institution would suffer from Budget Cuts. It is the duty of the Government to provide the best Transport, health and Education that our Tax dollars pay for. Not the Sons of Bitches like Kerry Packer who earned Billions and yet paid less tax than my wife. Killing education or even stifling it is a crime against civilisation. I strongly suggest stopping a \$100 million a day War and put the money to TAFE and other useful services.

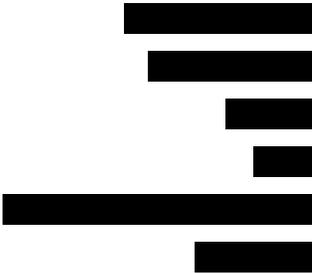
The ignorance and blatant stupidity of the Liberal Party is legendary. The foolishness of the Labor Party and their attempt to play the way the Liberals do has already shown its folly. Any Government that does anything less than fully fund its educational facilities is a traitor to their Country, its future and a thief to the money they are paid as leaders of the Community.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because of all the points I've expressed earlier. If I can do it anyone can. It IS just so important to have the TAFE option. That this option is fully funded.

Submitted by

Alan Cinis of Little Wobby Beach

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Susan Bonneau, of Coburg make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a disability support worker and acupuncturist , in the postcode of 3058.

I have a health science degree and some graduate social work studies- this was attained with financial hardship due to my health. My health has always set me back. Currently, for that reason, I can only work three days maximum.

Due to my limitations, I wanted to aquire further skills in various areas to be able to increase my work opportunities in the disability sector- the objective was to support my job application for work with demonstrated industry knowledge and skill. For example, horticultural/landcare studies where in turn, I would be teaching/supporting people to develop gardening skills and the like, which would increase their chances of employment and or improve their wellbeing. But, as a result of my previous tertiary studies, I was informed that I would be required to pay full fees. This seemed more of a

burden on me financially regardless of the long- term benefits I believed new skills may have opened up for me in the disability field.

My colleagues that I currently work with have attained their current work because they returned to vocational education. Some people were well past midlife, some retrenched, some jobless, some were return to work mothers and so on. TAFE has been the reason that gave them the opportunity to change their lives and to return to work after years of unemployment.

Not everyone can take up Tertiary education but I think nearly everyone can apply themselves to, and will benefit from TAFE education. Regardless of age and life stage- TAFE provides that basic level to acquire work skill with the option to further develop expertise in whatever industry- vocational education. TAFE offers practical up to date work skill development. Its integral to building our nation with skilled people.

All the people I work with in the disability sector are employed because they were able to attain a TAFE qualification. Some of those people have gained confidence in being able to complete a certificate and now feel capable of further study. The only limitation to expanding their knowledge and skills in their industry is if they can afford to pay the fees and the availability of a relevant industry courses.

Although I cannot name specific private colleges- I am well aware of overseas and local students who have paid large sums of money for education in private colleges. Over the years there has been many reports about inquiries into private colleges that have folded-up. The inquiries have demonstrated that some private colleges do not provide the expertise nor the facilities required to attain skills nor knowledge. My response to this at the time was and still is- what public money goes into these colleges? how can private colleges set themselves up so easily? or so it seems!

On the other hand, my husband has recently completed a certificate level and is currently doing a diploma in a private college here in Melbourne. So far it seems ok and has thus far- although not in a huge financial way- opened opportunities for him to recreate himself (60yo). Enabled him to move towards work that is a more viable field in the long- term where he can maintain his health and wellbeing. Although he cannot compare with TAFE because TAFE does not provide this course and his views are not underpinned by an industry standard- with keeping this in mind, he says: that he is 60% satisfied with this course; but he thinks that the curriculum does need improvement; he believes that the course is delivered by people with expertise.

I have heard of cuts to courses, campus closures and definitely increase in student fees. Most concerning because people from all walks of life and of all ages at some point in their life need to learn or further develop work skill so as to gain or maintain employment. I understand TAFE to be all about VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.

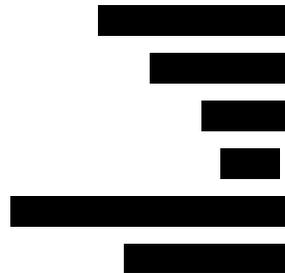
I do not have any direct experience but have known people's lives to be severely disrupted as a result of increased fees- disabling them from continuing their work skill development regardless of long- term benefits.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE is integral to keeping people employed.

Submitted by

Susan Bonneau of Coburg

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, yvonne dengate, of lismore make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a youth worker , in the postcode of 2480 .

I left school when I was 15 and completed an apprenticeship which involved three years of tafe. The experience was great, the facilities were great and I worked as a painter and decorator for 20 years. I was not confident in my academic ability and tafe was perfect for me.

I now work in community services. I have earned my tertiary qualifications through uni, however, I have observed that some of the best community workers that I work alongside with have earned their Cert 4 in community services at Tafe. The cert 4 at tafe is two years full time. During this time students are able to learn hands on through assessments, work placements and research. There is a growing trend for people entering into community services to complete their training through private RTO's.

Private colleges often run their courses for six months only, appealing to those who wish to gain their qualification quickly. The work books are often tick-a-box quality. Students are not given the opportunity to achieve a quality education or background into community services. Organisations and would be students appear to be favoring the shorter, much less quality courses, meaning that tafe numbers would be dropping. Tafe is able to deliver courses to a wide variety of students with varying learning styles. This is not always the case for the private organisations. I believe tafe delivers the types of courses that inspire students and encourage a love of learning.

I live in northern NSW where many artistic and creative people reside. The fine arts diploma that WAS on offer at Lismore tafe was extremely popular with many local artists looking to enhance their skills and not only refine their artistic skills to but to learn about selling their art, running their own business and earning a living from their creative flair. I know many artists who have completed the course and enjoy successful exhibitions and creative lives. The course in the northern rivers was particularly popular for many people living with a mental illness. Many of the students who had daily struggles with basic living skills found therapy in their art practice, were able to learn skills to increase confidence, be productive within society and are able to express themselves through art. The fact that funding to this course was slashed has been a major disappointment in this region.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means... tafe is important for many young indigenous people in this area, it is also a very important alternative for many young people that I work with who have come from lower socioeconomic and /or dysfunctional backgrounds. Many of the young people I work with struggle with basic literacy and numeracy skills. At tafe, they are able to enroll in Skills for Work and Training courses, which, as they make there way through the course work they are given opportunities to integrate into other courses which have real qualifications at the

end such as hospitality.

Recently I have completed some training. The qualification I have earned from the private college is a diploma, yet the course was only for six months. The work books were very poorly written. Many of my class mates had not completed any formal studying for many years. Assessment questions were written badly, often very ambiguous and too generalized. As community workers attending this course, we were all very busy and working in stressful jobs, most of us resorted to cutting and pasting information from the internet to answer questions. There was no inspiration, the course work did not ask for higher order or critical thinking. It was merely a tick-a-box learning guide. The course certainly did not inspire a love of learning from any of the my class mates, none of them have expressed any desire to continue studying or to further develop their skills in community services.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because I believe tafe offers comprehensive, quality courses from dedicated teaching staff who inspire students to learn, encourage individual learning styles and offer people a chance to fulfill dreams and aspirations through education.

Submitted by

yvonne dengate of lismore

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Steven Pierce, of The Leap make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Industrial Official for the CFMEU Mining & Energy Division QLD , in the postcode of 4740.

I attend Tafe as part of my apprenticeship. The Tafe system of block release provided me with theory and hands on learning required to complete my apprenticeship.

The Tafe system is able to quickly respond to the changing requirements of general industry to ensure that the apprentices being trained have the competencies needed to service the industries

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means that the same level of educational services available to those people residing in large communities is available to residents of small and/or regional communities

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded as this service is critical in ensuring that the country is best placed to meet its needs for qualified tradespersons on an ongoing basis and help avoid further skills shortages

Submitted by

Steven Pierce of The Leap

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, imelda harte, of Palmyra make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a office worker, in the postcode of 6157.

My daughter spent and successfully finished her further studies in TAFE, Fremantle and Leederville completing her Certificate III and IV of Aged Care and Disability Services. She's now working in a prestigious private nursing home in the metropolitan.

Not everyone can attend University but TAFE is a stepping stone to acquire various skills not provided in the University such as carpentry, mechanics etc. which are vital to the economy.

My daughter didn't finished high school and she was persuaded to attend TAFE inorder for her to find a better job and maybe later on if she wants to pursue University.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

N/A

Unsure

Have not been following it up.

There is always a big impact whenever cuts in services are carried out, poor service delivery, cuts in workforce etc.

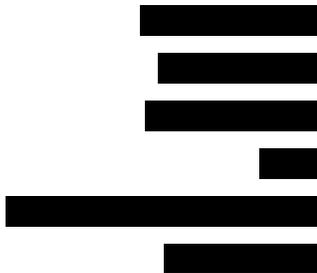
I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦

TAFE is the future of our children acquiring technical skills.

Submitted by

imelda harte of Palmyra

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Michael Norton, of Bracken Ridge make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a TAFE Teacher, in the postcode of 4017.

I have worked as a teacher in TAFE for the past 24 years. Much of this has been in a coordination role and teaching full time to both mature aged students at night and students that have just left school wanting to do a Diploma qualification to either get into the workforce or articulate to university.

TAFE provides very important work skills and knowledge. The assessment is competency based meaning that as a teacher, I need to ensure I know what the outcomes of a unit of competency is and then develop the assessment around the student having to develop those outcomes. These could be practical or knowledge based outcomes. I know for a fact that many of my students have successfully gained employment, gained promotions, changed careers or articulated to university where

they have completed an undergraduate qualification.

I know of one student that had not studied for 20 years since leaving school, did a study skills program and then enrolled into the Diploma of Justice SAdministration. This student was very nervous and had no self-confidence. I reviewed her initial assessment and spent time with her to make her work better. After that, she really gained confidence. By the end of the course, she had topped the class, had studied two other Diploma qualifications and also went on to university to complete an undergraduate course. She was definitely a success story!

I live in the Brisbane metropolotan area and so the TAFE college I attend is in a suburban area. Even still, thudents have come from a radius of 15 kms from where they live to attend this college campus. They see it as a commjunity college, even though it is part of a bigger TAFE Institute.

Yes I have! I have had examples of students that have sent their academic transcripts from private colleges that gained a qualification that should never have been awarded. That is, the qualification the student completed did not fulfil the qualification rules as stipulated in the Traing Package. Furthermore, students have even said to me that they want to come to TAFE because the training they previously completed at a private college was very ineffective. They had been told of the good name TAFE has!

Yes, many staff have lost their jobs as a result of budget cuts. The cuts have not been so much in my area, but in some more specialise areas, I know of a range of job and course cuts that have occurred in the past 2 years.

It has affected it a great deal. Morale is down. However, I give credit to the executive who are trying to keep us abreast of what changes are coming. However, confidence

is still down and staff have become quite cynical.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it will ensure a strong Australian workforce into the future. If TAFE was to be cut, then skill levels will be greatly depleted. I know both the state and federal governments have an agenda to improve skills in the Australian workforce. Cutting TAFE will have the opposite effect on both state and federal government policies. Don't be stupid! Don't let money rule decisions!

Submitted by

Michael Norton of Bracken Ridge

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Mary Anne MacDonald, of Canterbury make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a bushregenerator, in the postcode of 2193.

I was a stay at home home with 5 children. Decided to get a job, so enrolled in TAFE in horticultrist, doing courses up to Diploma, which not finished as changed over to TAFE course, Conservation and Land Management and have a job in this area. I would like to do more TAFE studies in this area. I have 3 daughters who have studied successfully at TAFE, doing Real Estate, Interior Design and Decoration and Accounting and my son as Massage therapist. All got jobs in chosen career

TAFE is really important as its courses are for every day jobs in our society that keeps it ticking, like trades plumbing, horticultrist, cooking, business courses and so many more. Its an affordable way to start a career and good stepping stone, to see if would like to pursue further studies at Uni

Tafe has given me second chance in that I stayed home and raised my children. At this age, it would have been very difficult to get a job, but going to TAFE has given me opportunities of what courses I could afford to go and study. Due to success in my studies and now have a job

Not living in big area, being able to go to TAFE means that I can further my studies and if necessary change my job career, as my job now is very physical. Reason I can consider, is cause TAFE is affordable, unlike UNI

I have not been in position to witness this

I feel its so wrong that courses have been cut, like in Arts Dept. where can these students now afford to go now? Plus TAFE skilled teachers are now without a job ??? Am starting to think which are next courses that will be cut? Increase in fees is so wrong, so many of us that are doing TAFE courses are earning low wages, so if fees continue to increase, students won't be able to study and theres no where else go, so this could lead to more uneducated, unskilled, unemployed and increase in crime. As bushregenerator, its required that we do Cert 111 in Conservation and Land Management and speaking to workers who have started, really don't know how they are going to afford course next year, as our wages are very low !!!

Yes the higher fees means that some people now can not afford to go to TAFE, so miss out been educated and in time may lose their job. Uni was for people that had money or their job in time will help pay off uni fees. TAFE was different, prior to increases in past year it was affordable to alot of average workers. TAFE was a window of affordable opportunity to study and get a decent job/career. Also a stepping stone into UNI

I believe that TAFE has got 'greedy' by needing more money and having severe cut backs, which is having and will have really bad impact on our society, as people won't be able to afford to get educated. Plus many of courses at TAFE keep our society ticking, like plumbers, hairdressers, chefs, etc and so means there will be less of these skilled workers cause people can't afford TAFE. This could be a form of 'discrimination', we can't help that we are not born into a family with ample money to pay for our TAFE fees !

Submitted by

Mary Anne MacDonald of Canterbury

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Saskia Italiano, of Bicton make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a social worker, in the postcode of 6157.

I have a bachelor of behavioural science and I have studied Spanish at TAFE. I currently work with young people who have disengaged from education, TAFE provides training for them to develop personal and professional skills which allow them to engage positively with the community and participate and contribute.

TAFE provides many pathways for those hoping to develop skills. TAFE fosters both professional and personal development.

I currently work with young people who have disengaged from education, TAFE provides training for them to develop personal and professional skills which allow them to engage positively with the community and participate and contribute.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

As a result of this there become large inequity gaps and those who can not afford to pay for TAFE can therefore not afford an education and as a result they go not gain the necessary skills to enter skilled employment. Often they do not constructively participate within the community, and can become further disengaged and disempowered.

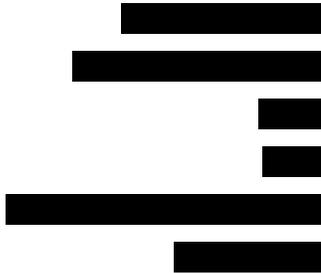
As a result of this there become large inequity gaps and those who can not afford to pay for TAFE can therefore not afford an education and as a result they go not gain the necessary skills to enter skilled employment. Often they do not constructively participate within the community, and can become further disengaged and disempowered.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because everybody deserves the opportunity develop professional and personal skills.

Submitted by

Saskia Italiano of Bicton

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Pamela Marcano, of Perth make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Industrial Officer, in the postcode of 6000.

As a mature aged worker I recommenced my studies through the TAFE system which enabled me to be the successful applicant when I applied for a position in a Union. The TAFE qualification was a forerunner to my entry to University to continue my studies. Studying at TAFE gave me the confidence to continue with my studies and obtain employment in my chosen field.

I most certainly do. Whilst at TAFE I came across students from all walks of life and of all ages. Completing a TAFE qualification is the foundation for many people to gain confidence to apply for jobs in their field.

I was working as an administrative assistant and wanted to improve my knowledge.

My children had reached an age where it was possible to spend time reaching for my own achievements.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

No, not really

Budget cuts would affect how many people of Australia gain entry to positions, e.g. aged care, public health workers and trades people all rely on the qualifications they receive from TAFE education to further their careers.

Whilst I was at TAFE the number of contact hours was reduced which made it more difficult have the ability to ask questions and to hear other people ask questions.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because there are many people who use their TAFE education to start and then to further their careers.

Submitted by

Pamela Marcano of Perth

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Vijayakumar Vijayaratnam, of Willetton make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am a parent of a 17 year old and a 14 year old. My expectations for them is quite high. It is every parent's dream for their children to be better than they are in term of academic achievements and social standing and not to mention financial independence. My eldest has completed school and has his sight set on the mining or oil and gas industry. He is one who is not motivated by school and uni but is happy to get his hands dirty in vocational education. TAFE provides this pathway and it is something that we are glad Australia provides this opportunity for the youths. This alternative education stream allows kids to grow up with a skill and live with dignity in the community. In my youth, coming from a far away country, if you did not go to uni, you were a drop out, you were stupid and you are thrown in the scrap heap, being lucky to even secure a job. We moved to Australia for one reason only. Our children will have that dignity and opportunity. I have been working since day one I stepped into the country and my wife started working four years later when the youngest started

primary school. We have been paying our taxes and we did not mind paying the taxes as Australia provided for the middle class and the middle class has to support the system that supports them. Don't take that away.

Submitted by

Vijayakumar Vijayaratnam of Willetton

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Jocelyn Hansen, of Ridgewood make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a contracts manager, in the postcode of WA 6008.

I study at TAFE to extend my skills and continue my learning journey to remain independant after I finish work. As a care-giver I have a husband with a chronic heart condition and TAFE allows me to explore and encourages good mental health and employment in alternative career .

The major way TAFE allows for strong smart workforce is the opportunity for thousands of students to take the steps necessary to a small step away from dependence on welfare into self actualising work.

In my case it helps me maintains a healthy work-life balance and I am not alone for mental health is a number one issue for the future for multicultural Australian society. It is so encouraging to see students from many nationalities and ages working and

participating in a strong future for Australia.

There are many women in my class who are moving into new and absorbing careers an example. One of my classmates owned a hairdressing salon and decided she needed a less stressful and absorbing career where she could utilise current skills and enjoy fruit of her own creative talents in artistic fields. She is working towards holding her own exhibitions and has the option of further study in commercial areas such as graphics and public relations industry for example. Something she hadn't considered prior to TAFE study. In other words TAFE provides a new start and greater choice.

I supervise contracts for womens health centres around WA and coordinators are always encouraging new courses for people not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means they are taking the necessary steps to explore options and progress despite the fact they may be coping with racial differences, fly in fly out conditions or recovering from domestic violence situations and many stresses or finding a way to be productive while making sense of life long disability. TAFE is an option which leads all these people into maintaining/developing, greater wellbeing through opportunities to learn new skills and trades and be part of a strong workforce.

No my knowledge of this area is limited. I notice some universities fail accreditation standards and think these types of situations are so detrimental when guidelines are there to protect both the learning institution and students for everyones benefit. TAFE has high standards and expect they will continue to live up to that expectation.

I do see the stress on our teachers. The number of talented people who are constantly coping with sometimes difficult students with few social skills and extending a hand way beyond requirements to ensure students meet learning objectives are even more stressed by lack of job security due to possible cuts. It would make many people throw

in the towel. I do know that the cuts to courses and student fees and job losses are crippling for everybody and it doesn't stop at the individual if affects families and business.

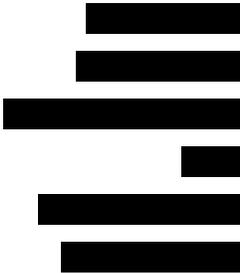
Cuts increase stress and lack of study support is the result of trying extend way beyond acceptable boundaries. Stress is the number one killer that is one of the greatest factor in developing chronic disease and government could well do a cost benefit analysis of unintended consequences of such decisions.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is has a tremendous impact on metro and regional Australians, TAFE is the next step for thousands of people that strengthens Australia to do well in creating further employment and for all those who attend the opportunity to lead productive self rewarding careers and lives.

Submitted by

Jocelyn Hansen of Ridgewood

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Tao Triebels, of Campbelltown NSW make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a self employed businessman, in the postcode of 2560.

Although I only attended TAFE briefly, I found it to be an extremely worthwhile experience. I have colleagues that attended TAFE full-time and they also found this to be extremely worthwhile for their work and careers. I do intend to do a course at the TAFE to further my education in the field of sustainability.

It's the place to get a good grounding for a variety of careers. It's the best place to get hands-on experience. These skills are important for Australia today and into the future.

Although I live in Sydney, I realise that TAFE is particularly important for people in regional areas. Any cuts to TAFE will impact these areas and restrict the opportunities of the students there.

I have noticed an increases in poorly regulated private colleges. There have been a number of TV programs dealing with this problem.

I have noticed cuts to the local TAFE. I am also a part-time teacher at North Wollongong TAFE and I noticed a cut in staff and facilities. This is at the detriment on the students.

The number of classes offered has been dramatically reduced. In particular, the creative arts (the glue of society) which is now no longer offered at TAFE. This is a loss to the whole community.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded now and into the future. Well-funded TAFE colleges (across all faculties including creative arts) are important for a well balanced and educated community.

Submitted by

Tao Triebels of Campbelltown NSW

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, heather paterson, of happy valley make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a lecturer, in the postcode of 5159.

I have done study after school. Two of the certificates I have were gained at TAFE. My son has attended TAFE. Attending TAFE has helped him to gain some direction in his life

TAFE delivers the skills people need to get work. I know for example that some of the aged care facilities in southern adelaide rely on TAFE students as a recruitment tool

I know of students who have had redundncies particularly from the car industry that have benefited from attending TAFE. Many of them tell me that TAFE has assisted them to study an area that was unavailable to them 20 years ago due to social or parentla pressures.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

yes. In Aged Care there are a number of RTOs that offer the same qualification in 5 weeks

we have had a significant drop in numbers. We are unable to purchase equipment for our skills lab reducing us to the same standard as the poorly regulated RTOs we discussed in question 6

reduced class numbers

reduced HPI hours resulting in HPIs leaving and taking their expertise and industry contacts with them.

We can't compete with the private RTO fees

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE SA is a recognised institution that most South Australians think of when they consider doing a course. the population is no longer thinking like this as:
Budget cuts and the reliance on SATAC to get into Cert 1, 2, and 3 courses are significantly impacting our ability to deliver quality education

Submitted by

heather paterson of happy valley

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Jane McPherson , of Penguin make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Admin Assistant, in the postcode of 7320.

I am always willing to learn new skills. As a young teenage mum i was able to complete all of my training tthrough Polytechincs previously TAFE. Admin and detnal assistant skills. My daughter aged 21 also has studied through Polytechnics completing cert 3 and 4 in fashion design and techonology which has helped her gain skillful knowledge of the fashion industry and has been recongonised as RPL in in her current uni course she started this year . As a working family we would never have been able to afford to send her to Melbourne any earlier as the expense would have been out of our reach. Polytechinc has helped her reach the goal she has dreamed of. My 16 year old son is also very keen to go to Polytechnics to gain valuable skills at an affordable rate for young familes in a reigional area.

TAFE provides students with current up to date information. This helps the young and mature students enter into the workforce more confident.

Myself - Teenage mum in early 1991 TAFE gave me the opportunity to return to the workforce after leaving Hellyer College in 1st term year 12. I now hold a fulltime position with a government department in Administration.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means I have the opportunity to gain valuable skills. I currently attend TAFE flex time and do find it difficult as I can attend only one night a week as staffing has been cut.

No

yes I currently attend TAFE flex time and do find it difficult as I can attend only one night a week as staffing has been cut.

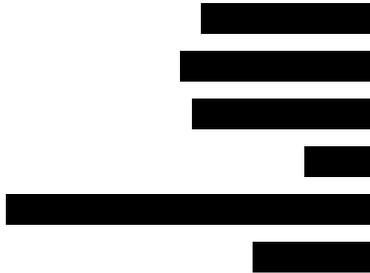
Support has been reduced for students studying flex time.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because our younger and mature students need it. Otherwise more people will have to leave this beautiful state in order to achieve their goals.

Submitted by

Jane McPherson of Penguin

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Craig Ockerby, of Frenchs Forest make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a full time Tafe teacher, in the postcode of 2100..

I have been in the building industry my whole life, my father was a builder and I spent 6 years at tafe to become a builder myself. I started working as a part time Tafe teacher in 1992 and started as a full time teacher in 2004.

I have been a student in the tafe system as well as working in the system. I have worked with apprentices my entire career and Tafe is a critical link in the industry. The building industry is becoming too specialised and Tafe training is the only way we can ensure apprentices have the wholistic training that creates a solid foundation with the concrete principles that apprentices require.

There are many instances where students have spent their entire academic careers as

failures. For the first time in their lives they are managed and helped with their studies and they see how the theory is applied in a practical way. This boost to their self esteems they carry for the rest of their lives.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means every one will have the same opportunities.

I have a neighbour that was completing a Certificate 4 course through a private institution. He asked me for help with an assignment. He was the only student in the class that completed the assignment. Because no one had bothered, the teacher wrote out the answers on the board, which the rest of the class copied, then handed them in. My neighbour was appalled and made an official complaint, which fell on deaf ears. Is this what we are headed for, qualifications for payment? This is only one of many poorly run courses that are evolving in the private sector.

There is not a day at the college where money, or lack of it, is not the main topic of discussion. Budget cuts mean there is constant talk of cutting classes, increasing class numbers, cutting back on materials, making practical jobs smaller, teachers doing more administration, it goes on and on and on. Teachers main role now is administration and resource development. Teaching has almost become a secondary function of the role.

I am now seeing significant loss of jobs and teachers are feeling vulnerable. It is not the most conducive atmosphere to best practice.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because Tafe will deliver what no one else can. Tafe has the infrastructure in place with highly qualified staff that always have the students and respective industry interests at the forefront.

Submitted by

Craig Ockerby of Frenchs Forest

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Nicholas Muir, of Singleton make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a librarian, in the postcode of 2331.

My family have all been to TAFE over the years, and I have worked with Tafe as a librarian.

It develops skills that every society needs in an enormous range of disciplines; it is government which means it is more open and accountable than private learning institutions; it has a great network of libraries around the state.

I live in a regional area, and there are not many alternative options available, unless you look at online courses. However, online learning has the disadvantage of no face-to-face learning. Tafe fills a big demand for learning in Singleton.

Yes, other education providers are emerging. How are these regulated? Are they any good? How would a prospective student know if they are meeting qualification requirements or not? Some examples are: Martin College; William Blue; "Upskilled". Who are these providers? While they seem to be offering the same qualifications (Cert IV, etc.), how do we know they have the same standards?

No - I am not at Tafe at the moment.

Less course options, less teachers and potential Tafe closures in areas that are considered to be low value as they have less students. Smaller campuses are not less important, indeed, they are of more value to the towns where they are located.

Tafe is an important part of Australian society. It has educated a lot of people over the years. Because Tafe is government funded, it has a reliability and respect that other smaller, private education 'providers' do not have. It also has a lot of resources (such as libraries), which other institutions cannot compete with. These institutions are not as regulated as Tafe.

Submitted by

Nicholas Muir of Singleton

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Brook Down, of Coffs Harbour make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Operations Manager, in the postcode of 2450.

Living in a regional area of high unemployment, I found secure employment almost impossible after completing my HSC in 1987. I needed to upskill so my best and only local option was to go to TAFE. It was only then I was able to present a more suitable applicant to employers.

TAFE is a vital contributor to a smart & strong Australian workforce as it provides QUALITY training that is the benchmark of the VET area. That is highly recognised by industry and the community alike and employers know, that when they employ a TAFE graduate, they can be assured the employee has recieved quality training they can trust.

Studying a Business qualification at TAFE allowed me to apply for a promotion at work of which I was successful. This can be directly attributed to my TAFE Diploma of Business.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...I am able to access affordable quality vocational education within a reasonable travel time. Reducing TAFE funding will only hurt the very citizens the NSW government should be focused on assisting. That being the socially disadvantaged, the disabled, the unemployed and indigenous Australians, all of which are in much higher levels in regional New South Wales.

Private Vocational Education Providers, as with any private enterprise, the number one priority is to make money. They are profit driven and in order to maintain profit margins, educational delivery and quality learning outcomes are sacrificed. They shorten practical class time, the number of practicals classes are reduced and the individual practical hands on experience the students receive is reduced in favour of group work. This makes individual assessment of each student impossible and allows competency levels to be compromised.

As a result of the NSW govt TAFE budget cuts, course variety has been reduced and fees increased.

I have noticed course duration reduced resulting in poorer educational delivery and students learning less. I have also noticed the vital support staff that assist the teaching staff being reduced which means the students are now spending valuable class time doing the duties of support staff, like cleaning.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because so many

of your fellow Australians are relying on a high QUALITY vocational education provider. Not only the students that crave QUALITY educational delivery, but the employers and Industry need staff that has been educated by a QUALITY organisation they can trust. They know the person they are about employ simply has been trained thoroughly and is competent.

Submitted by

Brook Down of Coffs Harbour

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Emily Callachor, of Hornsby make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Office Administration, in the postcode of 2077.

My first TAFE experience was in 2004 where I studied as part of my first job post high school - a traineeship. I next was enrolled in a Cert IV, I next completed a Cert IV with distinction followed by a Diploma with Distinction, and am now studying another Diploma course.

I always knew that when I finished the HSC that I did not want to go to University, and instead I wanted to get a job. I was lucky enough to find a traineeship where it was a requirement to complete a Cert III.

This was the foundation of my tertiary education. The teachers were helpful and supportive and gave praise where due and criticism when needed. It was the perfect

learning environment for me, as it was not too dissimilar to school where I have just been for the last 13 years, but gave me the independence that I was after.

I have had this same experience in my other experiences with TAFE.

Aside from the Cert III, all my other TAFE attendance has been at night time, and my current Dip is via correspondence.

TAFE contributes to a smart and strong workforce because TAFE is a safe environment to learn "who, what, when, where & why" and knowledge & skills are delivered in such a way that it is exceptionally easy to apply to one's work place... Because 'with education, comes strength.

Ps. Australian should be with a capital A

When started my traineeship the only qualification I had was completion of the HSC, by completing a Cert III as part of my traineeship, I could now say I had a "real" qualification. This opened doors to the number of jobs I was eligible for, and intimately allowed me to find employment. The same can be said for many of my friends & family, where a TAFE qualification has allowed them to apply for work, that without the qualification, they otherwise could not

I have always been fortunate enough to live in a city or a metropolitan area and as such have always had access to a TAFE (Gosford & Hornsby).

I am concerned though what will happen to local TAFE's if funding is cut, because as it is I have had to resort to distance education because my desired course was not

offered at a convenient location. I strongly believe this is because of cuts already made to funding - because teachers are not available to teach despite several students requesting the course - you need 20 students and we only had 12, which did not qualify under the funding arrangements. I would be very upset if further funding cuts are made to TAFE because it would mean this scenario would become more common, and will significantly reduce the number of people being educated, which will have an impact on the number of people employed - how can I get a job if i have no skills or qualifications? The answer is that I can not.

I have never been to a private college because I am a supporter of public education.

Cuts to courses provided.

Reduction in number of teachers.

Increases in student fees.

Education instrumentsâ€™ not provided i.e. course notes

Course fees have increased, teacher numbers have decreased, and course availability & location has decreased, meanwhile expectations of Governments & the public on TAFE teachers has increased. What is currently happening to TAFE NSW is what has already happened to the public school system.

TAFE like Public schools require enough funding to make sure appropriate services can be provided so that we all have to same opportunity to get an education.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is our

responsibility to ensure that future generations are given the same opportunities as us, such as an affordable education and access to information & support services, which traditionally TAFE has provided. I don't like the forecast for TAFE " will there even be a TAFE? Will it continue to be unbiased? Will it be affordable? Probably not is the answer to all three questions.

Submitted by

Emily Callachor of Hornsby

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Roslyn Carter, of Tecoma make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retired, in the postcode of 3160.

My son became ill during VCE Year 12 and did not achieve a high enough ENTER score for uni. He got himself a job and started doing TAFE courses at night and to his great credit (and of course the availability of TAFE courses) he worked his way up over several years through TAFE Management and HR courses. He finally made it to Uni a few years ago and has recently completed a Masters in Industrial Relations at Monash University and is employed successfully in the IR field. Without TAFE this intelligent young person would have faced a life of menial or no solid employment prospects - perhaps requiring Government benefits.

It provides opportunities for those who may otherwise remain unemployed, and unhappy and a potential burden to society.

See above

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it gives opportunities to those young people who might otherwise not be able to gain meaningful employment.

Submitted by

Roslyn Carter of Tecoma

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Maria Isabel Portaro, of Fairfield make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a NSW public servant, in the postcode of 1860.

I migrated from Argentina where I was graduated as a solicitor. I did not speak a high level of English & my qualifications weren't reconised in Australia. I failed at Uni due to need to work, poor knowledge of the system and language and lack of resources. I completed a Diploma in Social Sciences at TAFE that helped me to improve my knowledge of the whole Australian legal system and welfare. It also opened up an opportunity to work according to my qualifications.

I can only talk about my experience that has been great! I felt that the pace to study was good, the teacher's knowledge was very good and in general, specially at Kogarah most teachers were in similar level of proficiency & professional approach. Unfortunately not all the students showed the same interst & felt that some were

attending without lot of committment to study.

I believe that not everyone is capable to succeed at University level and that TAFE gives a lot of opportunity to people who want to improve their employability and working skills. Sure this could also be transferred to technology and other areas. Unfortunately currently some private tertiary organisations are in the buisines and some may even be linien to attract more students & their moneys. I think instead of closing this great initiative that it is TAFE, those private organisations that are flowrishing at its expenses should be subjected to scrutiny and show their success with employability and stay in the jobs of their clients.

Nina, the daughter of my best friend was able to have a second chance to study thanks to TAFE. She did not complete high school due to personal issues and the fact that was very insecured -despite being very bright. Later on she decided to complete studies at TAFE and did a diploma in website design and other computer studies. She found a great job in a large company and feels useful and happy with her profession. Another friend, Maureen, she was 60 when I met her at TAFE; did not completed any tertiary qualifications before but felt the need if to validate her views and to reinforce her confidence. She completed the full diploma -she did her last yer in QLD and even found employment in the field later on in NSW. Her life was changed for good.

In 1996 I moved to live in the Blue Mountains where I completed the Diploma in Social Sciences. Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means transport & some times resources are also an issue. I was very lucky to being able to attend the Wentworfalls TAFE where many locals have the opportunity to complete tertiary studies. Some of my colleagues there were later on employed in different agencies and I still get in contact with them at times -because of professional connections. Attendance to TAFE is also a great opportunity to socialise in small communities where social life is some times restricted. The atmosphere is so warm that you build

relationships that last for very long time; the fact that we had similar goals and interest contribute to that friendship to be born and to last. One of my best friends was studying at TAFE with me; we met in 1995 and still we see each other and share good and sad times together.

Definitively as I said before, I noticed many new and some poorly regulated private colleges with lower standards, in particular teaching international students and English. I heard that some of these students who have a working visas, do not pay much attention to the studies to being able to work their poor attendance to classes is not always penalised. I cannot give specific names as I only heard in social gatherings the comments. It seems that some are connected to the accommodation agencies for overseas students and also apparently their requirements to enter are "less" than those at TAFE.

The media is currently also talking about budget cuts affecting TAFE. This is also congruent with the government in NSW. Also when I search to make referrals to clients I noticed less courses available or less availability in some areas.

I learned about specific government's cuts that impacted TAFE. A colleague with whom I share a working project was appointed as a teacher in Social Welfare and she has been asked to develop the sillabus and TAFE will only pay few hours for that which are not reflecting the real time required to develop full programs. This is to me an indication that there is much less money and of course service will be negatively affected.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because Australian TAFE has a world reputation & has been leading public vocational education & training in a professioanl maner for more than 100 years. Also TAFE is probably the only way

people in small towns & suburbs distant from cities can have access to education & training.

Submitted by

Maria Isabel Portaro of Fairfield

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Marie Ramsay, of Highgate Hill make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a TAFE teacher, in the postcode of 4059.

I have 2 Bachelor's degrees and a Post Graduate qualification, and have worked in different sectors in State education with other time spent in private business and consultancy here and overseas. I have taught Prevocational trade students, in Business Administration and the Business / HR Diplomas with Australian and International students.

TAFE has an obligation to the community and wider society to engage with as many learners as possible to provide foundation personal, interpersonal and technical skills. TAFE needs to provide access to learning at all stages of adult life so people can contribute to the workforce to the best of their ability with up-to-date skills. This should be provided at an affordable price that doesn't discourage engagement and success.

Many Business Administration students were mature age, returning to the workforce after many years, often when the family circumstances had changed for the worst. My current Diploma students include a number who failed to gain University entrance, and TAFE is helping them to bridge the requirements in a situation where they can receive more individual attention and encouragement. There are others at TAFE who could not afford University fees and didn't want a large financial debt.

My TAFE is in the Brisbane area.

I have had students from Sarino Russo colleges who showed paperwork that had their achievement at a high level, but were unable to manage computers or basic written class work.

With funding cuts, many resources are not available: journal subscriptions contracting; fewer text copies available for loan to students. Contract and part-time staff have gone ages ago, and there is pressure on staff to accept redundancies (Art, Tourism and Hospitality departments so far). Some teachers from small sections have had to interview for their jobs twice, knowing that their unsuccessful colleague will be made redundant and that classes will be rolled together.

The increase in fees has certainly made life difficult for students since required textbooks must be purchased rather than borrowed from the library. For each semester, that's at least 5 texts at around \$100 each. Bus Admin courses at my campus have been closed even when there were people on the waiting list, and it is only offered now on the north side of Brisbane in an area with little public transport...so lots of potential students are missing out. Study support is not always available at times that fit with programs.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE upskills citizens to contribute throughout their life, helping students to believe in themselves and to believe in their future.

Submitted by

Marie Ramsay of Highgate Hill

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, [redacted], of [redacted] make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [redacted] years old and work as a Preschool vision screener [redacted], in the postcode of 2518.

I had a turbulent life as a child and did not do so well at school. At the age of 28 I was ready to give it all another go and work on creating positive outcomes instead of circulating negative ones. I found TAFE at 28. TAFE changed my life. I enrolled to do a Youth Work course then Community Welfare and came out with a better understanding of myself, a better work ethic, better skills and a State medal as the highest grades in the course state wide. I also found through this time that I was dyslexic and after discovering that, the world was my oyster. Without TAFE and the cheap fees I would not have had the opportunity to be in the great place I am now both financially and emotionally.

TAFE is more skills and experience based. I like that a lot because as a skilled worker, I had a lot of work experience behind me before I presented myself to employers. It

gave me an edge in performance based interviews. As far as contributing to a smart and strong workforce, keeping fees low encourages many people who cannot afford or are unable deal with university, the opportunity to better themselves and create better skills for their future, without the debt of a HEX fee.

I lived on the streets for a few years, I had no finances and no support. I was able to do an advanced diploma for \$500 a year and the education and confidence this gave me, I have never looked back. I now teach self defence in the local community, active in local surf club, work for Sydney Childrens Hospital as a vision screener and have an established community image. Talk about change...something as simple as the confidence that a TAFE education can bring is the difference between my past and now.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...a viable and affordable option to Uni. TAFE does not discriminate as Uni does with entrance levels etc. in Wollongong we have a university and 2 TAFE campuses. I would choose TAFE every time. I had a very positive experience.

No am not in the loop of private colleges.

I have noticed that the fees are causing a lot of problems with equality and with people being unable to afford the education now. This is very poor in my opinion and it makes me very concerned for my daughters generation for choices of further education. Especially those who have so much to deal with in their school years that they need this resource to fall back on their later years like I did.

Cuts to TAFE means higher fees and less resources. If the government wants a smarter and stronger workforce, TAFE fees need to remain affordable for all income

levels and needs to be resourced enough to attract good teachers.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need TAFE to remain achievable for all. TAFE is not considered as an affordable option anymore and many low income earners that would have once benefited greatly are now not able to. Not smart management for the future state governments.....

Submitted by

of corrimal east

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Tom Sheard, of Mount Nasura make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a prison education officer, in the postcode of 6112.

I am a qualified teacher with a degree and postgraduate diplomas, however I have also done extensive study at TAFE in order to acquire a host of practical skills which are appropriate to teach in the prison environment. Generally the TAFE courses are the most useful of any academic or training programme for the men in prison. They represent one of the most useful activities to pursue while incarcerated. We would be lost without the future focus which TAFE offers for men prior to release.

As prisoners leave our system, finding a job is one of the highest priorities to prevent re-offending. The TAFE courses we offer make that possible.

There have been any examples over the years of men training or re-training with TAFE

prior to release in order to make themselves employable and to get a second chance.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

In some cases, yes. There is a proliferation of RTO's which have developed in order to deliver the quick-money at low investment courses which require almost no infrastructure. Check out how many RTO's will deliver the Cert IV in Training and Assessment, for example.

There are also private RTO's which deliver trade-related subjects, but have few of the expensive facilities that the TAFE system has developed, such as in the automotive, metals and bricklaying industries. I believe they work hard to attempt to deliver the impossible: trade training as a commercial enterprise. My assumption is that the corners they cut for profit are important corners. They may be relying on industry to provide the practical experience in many cases. This is unlike TAFE who have always been able to enhance and supplement the training (GAP TRAINING) that industry cannot provide.

In other cases where a private company like Caterpillar is well-funded, the teaching is good but they have recruited the best personnel away from TAFE and at the expense of TAFE who have developed these resources embodied by their personnel.

Yes. We are experiencing a shrinking service from every sector of TAFE in WA Prisons.

There is currently an emphasis on the State Priority Occupation List. I can see the economic sense of this. However, my opinion, as an educator is that this could ultimately result in a TAFE system which has been "dumbed-down" and will stifle

inspiration, innovation and wide-thinking.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it represents a lifeline and a pathway out of the recidivist cycle of our clients.

Submitted by

Tom Sheard of Mount Nasura

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Gael Stewart, of North Bondi make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Teacher, in the postcode of 2026.

TAFE gave me as a mature age student an Associate Diploma which then allowed me to go onto University to gain my Teaching degree. Without this initial start I would certainly not have gained the wonderful start to my current career.

Without those that have the proper skills that build up the greater Australian economy how is Australia supposed to thrive and prosper?

Not only have I gained skills to enable me to further my career I know countless mothers and fathers who have used the TAFE system albeit through TVET to allow their children to gain a skill towards their future work. Many times this was because school just didn't work for their children or they simply were bored and needed to get

engaged in their skill of choice.

Anecdotally, I often hear about the terrible practices and cut backs of private colleges. Often churning out students the quickest way possible. The regulation of them is also shameful! TAFE still has such a wonderful reputation and this is recognised even at University entry levels.

Many cut backs are starting to affect moral. We have cut back our teaching hours to attract students (or is it to cut costs). I now very much feel that I am rushing my lesson content as a result. However I think there are some mighty TAFE teachers putting in many hours regardless to ensure quality teaching.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because you surely just need to look at the Victorian model to see what a complete mess it is. Can we please learn from this and not dumb us down.

Submitted by

Gael Stewart of North Bondi

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Murray Tyler, of Moranbah make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 47 years old and work as a Plumbing inspector, in the postcode of 4744.

I completed TAFE as an apprentice plumber which has served me all my life. I have further educated myself through TAFE, what does Government propose as an alternative?

TAFE makes an extremely important difference, Government should be improving TAFE and making it more accessible ie more affordable for everyone. TAFE colleges provide the platform for peoples careers for life nothing could be more important than this

I can't give any personal experience but I can say it set me on my path for life

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means... simply put not being able further educate myself for self improvement and gain the ability to earn more. The closest TAFE to me is 2.5 hours away

I have had some experience with english language schools which I believe are purely a money making exercise and a conduit for overseas students to obtain temporary work visas with the only requirement to attend a certain number of classes

I attempted to enrol in a course when I was renewing my gasfitting licence in QLD but the local TAFE in Mackay and also Rockhampton (5 hours away) could not provide the course

I believe so as I have checked Mackay TAFE website and found courses to be limited and costly

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is the right of all people to be able to educate themselves beyond the school system and can only improve standards of living and Australia's position in the Asian region. We will fall behind Asian countries if the dumbing down of Australia continues, what future will we face?

Submitted by

Murray Tyler of Moranbah

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Maria Dege, of Katoomba make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Customer Service Officer, in the postcode of 2782.

I am currently studying Certificate IV in Mental Health at TAFE. My husband is in a trade and gained his qualification at TAFE. I work in customer service at TAFE. My three eldest children have all utilised TAFE at some point after finishing school to gain extra qualifications.

TAFE provides people with a second chance at education. Not everyone excels within the school system or achieves their academic best at that point in their lives. The opportunity to study at TAFE helps to develop skills that are essential for the workforce, such as meeting deadlines, developing organisational skills and encouraging independent thinking.

My nephew has struggled all through his school life. He has started at TAFE this year in Commercial Cookery, something he is quite interested in. He is not an academic student. He slipped through the school system with poor numeracy and literacy skills. The opportunity to study at TAFE has opened a whole new world to him. This is not only about educational growth but personal growth. Anyone who spends time struggling to keep up with others develops a diminished sense of worth which manifests itself in negative behaviours. The ability to achieve and feel useful has changed his whole outlook. Positive behaviours are emerging and he is now on the path of being the best he can be. This option needs to be available to all.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means that students can have options outside of the school system and avail themselves of a broader range of study areas. They can also spend more time studying instead of using energy travelling to distant locations.

Not in the area that I live in.

There are less courses being offered, especially lower level courses. Courses are being offered through the 'fee for service' area which means that they are not affordable to most.

TAFE can no longer meet the needs of as many people. Some areas have been cut back drastically. Career paths are being impacted on, for example, Blue Mountains College offers Outdoor Recreation. Certificate III is offered through the mainstream program. Certificate IV is offered as a fee for service course and Diploma is also offered through a fee for service (with VET fee help) but students need to hold a Certificate IV to be eligible to enrol in the Diploma. If a student can't afford the high fee that the CIV costs then they can't continue their study with the college. This is directly

related to the budget cuts..

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the people of Australia need to have access to appropriate second chance education. TAFE is often the stepping stone for people who aren't ready or able to enrol in University. TAFE also provides the option for people to develop skills to assist them in the workforce, in day to day living as well as in further study.

Submitted by

Maria Dege of Katoomba

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Belinda Caruana, of Farmborough Heights make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Youth worker, in the postcode of 2526.

As an average but creative and hardworking student at High school, even though I studied, I got a terrible "Ter" and University at that time was not an option. After searching through the TAFE handbook, I applied and successfully got into "Community Welfare" Advanced Certificate. After 2 years completing that qualification, I bridged over to the Diploma in "Youth work". For over 15 years now, I have been working as a Youth worker and have been able to run a diverse and creative range of programs for young people in the Illawarra. Throughout my working life, Ive continued to study at TAFE, studying Japanese, Ceramics, Fine Arts, Desktop Publishing, and my latest a Diploma in Project Management. I currently work in local Government. Throughout my employment as a Youth Worker, I have trained over 15 TAFE welfare placement students and supervised 10 employed Youth work assistants and coached them all

to become great Youth workers and go on to establish their own careers. I would not have the great life I have without having gone to TAFE.

Due to TAFE cuts I have not been able to finish a few qualifications or further my Arts studies, and complete a Certificate 4. Due to no longer providing night Art classes, this opportunity is not available to me as I need to work in day time. In my work role I run public art initiatives with local young people and being able to complete this qualification, would greatly assist me in providing better community Art projects and creating artistic and employment pathways for students I work with.

TAFE creates opportunities. From disengaged High school students completing year 10 , to long time working adults needing a career/ lifestyle change. TAFE provides the opportunity for people to reengage with education , and even open up new University pathways.

Cutting TAFE is an insult to everyone. It says to Australian families, we do not care about you and your child's employment future.

Cutting funding to Arts is a real threat to the entertainment future, from Galleries, tourist attractions, community festivals and events to live music venues.

TAFE is the reason I am where I am. I am grateful for the opportunity to study locally at Shellharbour and both West Wollongong and Wollongong TAFE.

I know that TAFE ensures the standard of the Strong and Smart Australian workforce. One example, without TAFE how would OH&S standards be covered. TAFE enables people to be retrained in new standards, from food handling, operating machinery, child care service providers to hospital operations.

There is not enough spaces in University, and not everyone has the academic skills or financial capacity to be able to successfully complete University.

Reduce TAFE, then reduce the standards.

TAFE was my chance to create opportunity in my working life. Without TAFE , I would be bored and poor, working in retail or as a cleaner like I was when I was 16.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means creating pathways to employment locally. Once a person has worked locally they then have the opportunity to relocate to a City or International. How would young Australian backpackers work broad without Food and Beverage qualifications or other relevant retail training and experience. TAFE is opportunity. When these people return, they may start up a dynamic local business or tourist attraction. TAFE enables growth.

With poorly regulated Private colleges , Im just concerned that the Diploma I am currently studying in Interior design will not be as valued or recognised as a TAFE Diploma.

I have noticed the young people I work with talking about reduced opportunity and increased fees. They are scared that they cannot study locally and be able to create opportunity for their employment future. Their employment options are limited, they want to work, and TAFE for them was their pathway to better employment.

The local impact of recent TAFE cuts is 100 Reduced hours at West Wollongong TAFE, teacher and student's are concerned about successfully completing their courses and graduating requirements.

Cutting TAFE is an insult to all Australian families of school aged children. Im sure these people wouldnt have voted into State Government Liberal if they knew how

much they would lose for their children's future.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the people of NSW deserve it. It is not something you can just cut without consequence.

Find the money elsewhere. For some reason this Government is being cheap and cutting successful community programs and infrastructure. For what.

Shellharbour and Wollongong have been identified on a Federal level as areas for concern with regards to disadvantaged families and young people, High unemployment and low literacy and numeracy, and much more . Why on earth would any TAFE or community service cuts happen in this area.

Submitted by

Belinda Caruana of Farmborough Heights

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Pete Thornton, of Cobaki make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a Parks Senior Officer, in the postcode of 2486.

I have completed 6 courses at tafe from an apprenticeship to Certificate level short part time and longer full time courses and up to Diploma. All have given me the necessary improved knowledge and skill base to move forward in my career. I have also provided training at tafe as a teacher of horticulture and the courses provided have no doubt given many kids and mature students another chance at getting a job or chnaging careers - that otherwise do not exist. Personally I wonder where myself and many like people in my game (horticulture/landscaping) would be know without TAFE.

Offers more than a one dimensional oppportunity for peaple to extend their learning or get back into the workforce via improved education and skills - other than University. University is not for everyone - but tafe has proven to provide another evenue for

learning.

As above. Increased knowledge by attending short courses, or long term traineeships and certificates to night time top up diplomas etc. Personally I have done at least 6 different courses and taught over 30 subjects myself.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means... As above - MORE OPPORTUNITY not only to distance but for less skilled people and students who fell through the gaps at school/disadvantaged children and adults

Yes - worked for 2, private mobs.

Far less courses available and limited work for the dole projects etc which are great.

I am currently in the Public sector and noticed a drop in standards and availability of options for students - future workers/staff. Self Improvement and hence further opportunity is fast becoming an option for only a few with the necessary financial backing to go ahead in life. TAFE has always given the alternative for everyone.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because AS ABOVE

Submitted by

Pete Thornton of Cobaki

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Stephen Hodgkin, of Melba ACT make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a electronics technician, in the postcode of 2609.

I have studied electronics and communications at TAFE and have completed and Associate diploma, I have also done a course in fixed source radiation safety, working safely at heights training and various other courses through the TAFE system

The Tafe structure provides a hands on approach to a wide variety of higher education fields

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

There is a flood of educated but not hands on personel appearing from all manner of other educational structures, these often don't make the grade for hands on careers.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the next generation of technical personnel are becoming harder to find, if the systems are not supported the next generation of technical personnel will not be available to support the industries that are already crying out for skilled personnel.

Submitted by

Stephen Hodgkin of Melba ACT

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Judith Jaye, of Mortdale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a registered nurse, in the postcode of 2000.

not recently but over many years I have done many TAFE courses, such as safety, occupational health, audiometry which meant the additional education helped me attain & maintain employment.

TAFE very importantly assists in the delivery of practical, hands on, very useful skills & knowledge assisting people attain & maintain employment.

I became a registered nurse in 1977 then in 1986 & additional years TAFE education assisted me attain & maintain employment in the field of occupational health, safety & rehabilitation management in the private & public sector industries. I have not needed a university education to maintain my preferred employment options.

I live in Sydney but I am very concerned that my friends & family living in regional areas may not have the opportunities I have had through TAFE educational opportunities.

I have a 59 year old friend who is a highly skilled passionate TAFE employee who is very depressed about her future employment options. As an admin officer she said she still has productive work within TAFE but has been told that there may be no work by June 2013. She is a single mother working full time with one daughter with a chronic illness & she assists two elderly parents in their 80's, so the possible impending unemployment will cause financial & emotional distress.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded. Please consider all the above comments.

Submitted by

Judith Jaye of Mortdale

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Justin Vaughan, of Bedford make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Fitness Professional, in the postcode of 6052.

I have completed multiple vocational qualifications at TAFE, both Certificate three and four levels in the Fitness and Training industries. This is in addition to several university qualifications in my field.

The vocational qualifications I gained at TAFE have been very important to support my career progression as well as updating my expertise. I found TAFE to be an outstanding provider of vocational training that met my needs.

TAFE underpins very important knowledge and skills which are required in the workplace. TAFE has the capacity to provide a broad range of training on a large scale but also has the resources and expertise to offer niche training on a smaller scale that private RTO's are simply not interested in providing as it is not profitable for them.

TAFE colleges have the infrastructure to support students in need and/or at risk. I have many friends who have required extra support in their studies and were able to gain access to support services such as counselling, literacy & numeracy support, as well as career guidance and job-finding services.

Private RTO's do not offer this sort of support to students due to the cost of providing them.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means travelling to an urban centre, additional costs or transport and/or accommodation requirements. Additionally if training needs to be accessed at a private RTO it is likely to be more expensive and thus the entire process becomes very costly.

Private RTO's are frequently identified in my industries as providing poorly trained "graduates" and exposing students to inadequate course content during "accelerated" courses.

This includes courses that provide all the teaching, learning, experience and assessment for a full certificate course in just 3-4 weeks. Other courses provide certificates in very practical courses but the training is delivered entirely online with no direct observation of skills or opportunity to practice skills with your trainer/assessor.

It appears that the TAFE system is in a holding pattern, new courses are being delayed and existing courses are having their timetables "squeezed" of contact/delivery hours. This means that students are now receiving many less hours of actual training, learning, activities and experiences whilst completing their qualifications. The result can only be a less competent and less confident graduate.

Less classes being provided to learners gives them less time to spend practicing new skills, asking questions of their trainers and simply absorbing and processing new

information.

Knowledge and skills require time to be mastered, and often these things need many rehearsals and much repetition in order for the learner to feel confident that they have achieved mastery.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because only TAFE can provide quality vocational training on a large scale, whilst also supporting the needs of students at risk and/or with special needs.

TAFE has only one priority - the delivery of quality vocational training.

Private RTO's have profit as the first priority. The delivery of quality training is somewhere further down the list...

Submitted by

Justin Vaughan of Bedford

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Ariel Carol Elliott, of Lithgow make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [redacted] years old and work as a retired musician/artist, in the postcode of 2790.

TAFE was instrumental in my being trained first as an artist in 1970 and later as a welfare worker both courses leading to employment and ongoing creative pursuits particularly in my retirement years.

I also undertook an Environmental Course at Lithgow TAFE around early 2000's and this has led on to voluntary work in the local community ie Working as a volunteer in the local Community Native Plant Nursery for 6 years, many tree plantings and the last two weekends have been involved in planting 200 trees in Lithgow.

TAFE offers people opportunities that don't exist elsewhere and these courses at least provide people with self-esteem and confidence to look for work. It is especially valuable for those with disabilities or from a low-socio economic area to complete their

higher education if they left school early.

Studying Welfare Work gave me a second chance as I had never wanted to be a Secretary. I was able to be employed in a very challenging and interesting area and the course gave me many insights which have been invaluable in my life.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...one of few ways of getting further education and training. I am concerned that courses will be cut and I am upset that throughout the education system courses around creativity have already been cut.

Not especially

Not sure when fees began to be charged but I'm pretty sure all the education I undertook was free. I believe education should be free or only a very minimal amount should be charged.

I don't actually know

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€"all are entitled to a good education, not just those from wealthy backgrounds. We need to look after the disabled and people from low socio-economic backgrounds.

I would like to see courses in the creative arts reinstated as I feel they are integral to human growth. Where would we be without actors, singers, musicians, artists, etc. etc.

It would be a very miserable world indeed.

Promote education, the arts for the well-being of our nation.

Submitted by

Ariel Carol Elliott of Lithgow

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Jacinta Craine, of Kirrawee make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Librarian, in the postcode of 2232.

I have interviewed and recommended for employment many women re-entering the workforce after bringing up their children, who have had the confidence to apply for the positions after attending WOW courses through their local TAFE.

My Husband is now a TAFE teacher after being, initially trained in his trade through TAFE NSW. His/TAFE expertise is being sought by industry to train trainers internationally to install their products correctly.

My son has just started an electrical apprenticeship, which will set him up for life.

I believe TAFE provides an avenue for those not suited to University style education to realise their potential in a more practical fashion. In most instances TAFE is a starting point for life long learning, and as such opens numerous doors for many who

had thought that skilled employment was unobtainable.

As mentioned before women reentering the workforce after seeing their children supported through to school age. Starting with a WOW course, continuing into a Diploma course and then deciding to continue on to University.

HSC students who did not perform or did not know what University course would lead them to where they wanted to be. Started a TAFE course and after completion of the first year, gained confidence, knowledge and credit points towards the University course they decided upon.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes, courses are not being offered, which were once well attended. fewer time slots available so 'out of hours' attendance is restricted.

Support for ESL and disabled learners is now almost gone.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦!

Submitted by

Jacinta Craine of Kirrawee

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Tony Boyd, of South West Rocks make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retired, in the postcode of 2431.

I have recently completed Diploma of Fine Arts following a Certificate III, also in Fine Arts

I saw many people who had great trouble breaking into the work force. By attending TAFE it greatly improved their awareness and confidence about work and often was the stepping stone to work. It often 'catches the people left behind'. Plus it has the flexibility to meet changing needs of the local area.

A close friend started in TAFE after years of fairly meaningless casual work. She went on to obtain a degree in social work and now enjoys quality full time employment. TAFE was instrumental in filling the gap in her education to allow her to study at

university.

By not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means to local disadvantaged people are able to further their education, greatly improving their living and work skills. Many disadvantaged people simple do not have the ability/resources to move to a largeer centre to further their education. Also we have a very high umemployment rate and education is the largest employer in the area. So TAFE not only helps individuals but is a very important contributor to the quite poor local area.

Budget cts have had a HUGE impact! The course I did cost me about \$1500 a year which I could afford. Now it would be about \$10,000 per year. I was so lucky to finish my course last year. I am also concerned that students who go to TAFE now leave with enormous bills for their course. How appalling to treat our young this way!!

Budget cuts in TAFE have lead to a loss of opportunity and also burdening the young with massive debt. I feel this is so Unaustralian. Such selfishness and such short sightedness!

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because of its great support in three main ways. Firstly it gets lots of people out of the unemployment cycle. It is able to attract these people and help them move on. Secondly we need education from TAFE to keep our country strong. We must educate to keep our economy and community strong. Lastly education has an immediate impact of being the largest employer in the disadvantage area where I live. I was appalled before the last State election to see at a TAFE open day the local National Party member could not even be bothered turning up although several other political apties were represented. Why

does he not support such an important part of his electorate???

Submitted by

Tony Boyd of South West Rocks

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Richard Bale, of WOODRIDGE make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Admin Officer, in the postcode of 4101.

Attended

Yeronga TAFE - 1969 to 1971 - Trade Apprentice

Yeronga TAFE - 1990 to 1994 - Assc Diploma of Business

Majoring in General, Computing & Management

Yeronga TAFE - 2001 - upgraded to Diploma of Business & Management

TAFE gives the apprentices & trainees the knowledge to be able to better understand their chosen profession.

It also give the potential university students the ability to increase their OP score to gain entry ti university

At age 39, having to leave the trades due to health reasons, gave me the knowledge & qualifications to gain employment in the clerical field.

I have relations living in rural areas, who have to come to Brisbane to study, because the courses they require are not offered at the local TAFE. When they come to Brisbane, at least they have family to stay with. Those that don't have family or friends to stay with, it is an extra economic burden having to pay for accommodation.

Yes - in 1997/98, Southbank took in the nursing students from Sharfton College, due to college's poor standards

Due to the decrease in government funded places at TAFE, there has been a decrease in the number of applications for QTAC places

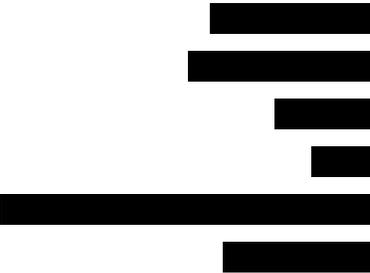
Due to TAFE cuts, People from low socioeconomic areas, are finding it difficult to increase their knowledge and skills to increase their ability to better themselves.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because there needs to be resources available to the public that fulfill the need between School and university. Not everyone wants to go to university, but would like some qualifications to be able to get employment. While schools now run Cert II to Cert IV programs, often that is not enough to get employment. Also there are a lot of people that finished high school a number of years ago and wish to upskill to change careers. (like I had to).

Submitted by

Richard Bale of WOODRIDGE

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, anthony papa, of pyrmont make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a executive officer in Drug, Alcohol & problem Gambling rehabilitation , in the postcode of 1145.

Having come from the Building and Construction Industry I know the importance of TAFE to our youth and their development. Many tradesmen have come through the system and are considered valuable contributors to the industry due to their qualifications and skills. The future of our industry depends upon building upon our skills base rather than depleting it.

There is currently the theory that we need to import skilled migrants due to an acute shortage, however, whilst we should bring in migrants we must also provide the education base for our youth to also develop skills that will guarantee our nations future and TAFE is the most suitable vehicle to further develop our educational skills

qualification goals.

In my many years experience in the Building and Construction Industry I have seen many young people who quite easily could have fallen through the cracks if it were not for the chance to make something of themselves and acquire a trade that will hold them in good stead for the future, TAFE is that opportunity and should be funded to guarantee its future and that of our youth and country.

Given that I reside in the city I do believe that being able to go to TAFE means quite a lot to people in regional Australia who find it far too expensive to move or travel to the cities just to access higher education. Acquiring trade skills in regional areas also greatly helps to develop and improve the regional areas and promoting growth, a win win for everyone.

Private colleges more often than not are more concerned in the collection of fees rather than the student. Similar courses to that provided by TAFE are more often than not far more expensive in the private sector.

My organisation currently provides voluntary Drug, Alcohol, Problem Gambling & Suicide prevention educational classes to a number of TAFE Colleges in NSW. We know that funding cuts will most certainly reduce the number of courses available and in turn will lead to cuts in the number of teachers. This situation is totally unacceptable, deplorable and criminal to say the least.

One does not need to be a rocket scientist to realise that cuts to funding in any industry will inevitably lead to cuts in services and jobs. Such drastic measures will definitely manifest into hardship for those seeking further education, higher fees charged and longer waiting periods to access the reduced number of services available. If the above

have not yet kicked in then it is a matter of when not if.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we as a society must ensure the future educational needs of our youth is soundly anchored in the accessibility of further education. Our future generations needs will seriously depend upon better education rather than dumbing them down and relying upon other countries educated people to come to Australia. It is high time our politicians woke up and provided better education for our youth.

Submitted by

anthony papa of pyrmont

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Nicole Allen, of ocean grove make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a House Supervisor, in the postcode of 3226.

While I didn't go to TAFE I have two boys in high school who are not particularly academic and may not go to university. I can see them both doing a trade in the future. I am a singel mum and while i wish ot encourage my children to have a career and training I will not be able to afford huge fees for both to go toTAFE. They are one year apart. It worries me what they will do if I can't afford TAFE fees for courses.

I provides training and careers for lots of professions that are not able to be qualified through any ohter means.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means. I live in regional Victoria and TAFE will be the big steeping stone for my two boys careers

no

Yes

Higher fees and less course options. This is especially critical when you live in regional Victoria and don't have access to a range of further study institutions

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because, we need career options for regional kids, kids that are not academic and to keep trades going so Australians don't have to fork out thousands for a plumber due to future shortages.

Submitted by

Nicole Allen of ocean grove

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Dianne Walker, of DONVALE make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a jeweller, in the postcode of 3111.

I entered TAFE at 44 years of age, it changed the course of my working life. 2 months after I graduated I opened my business, where I promoted 10 local jewellery artisans and within the first 6 months started employing and generated enough business to support myself and 2 other jewellers full time. I still work closely with a number of local business within my industry as a valued client. And I now promote 3 other jewellers including myself to assist in generating business for all of us.

TAFE gave me the skills to open my business immediately after graduating. My business not only provided an outlet for other jewellers to sell their product from, without the overhead costs involved. But also produced full time work for 3 jewellers.

I had worked from 18 years to 38 years when I stopped to have my child. At the age of 44 I needed a job that would allow me to still be at home for my child but allow me to earn an income, TAFE was my second chance and it has been a rewarding one for me and my child.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means... giving people of all ages and walks of life a chance to increase their skills and abilities to further their education and take control of their earnings.

There has been an increase in independent jewellers offering teaching classes to beginners and hobbyists. But these students are often unable to take their skills further due to high costs involved.

Increase in fees for skill's has become a deterrent for students and will impact on other services within our industry by slowing down sales and production with gem merchants, diamond setters, plating services, jewellery supplies, metal merchants, etc.

The cuts have already impacted on courses offered by TAFE. Box Hill TAFE Jewellery course is no longer offered and their Music program has had to increase the number of students into daily programs and as a result is unable to supply the required amount of equipment for all students to use doing their course, which is having detrimental effects on those students who are unable to use the equipment during the study timeframe.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the Jewellery Industry is already under enormous pressure from overseas competition with the internet and computer orientated products available to the consumer. Why does Australia have to lose another industry to an overseas market, that wont take the care

or responsibility when you have to return your precious diamond rings for resizing and they get lost in the mail!

Submitted by

Dianne Walker of DONVALE

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Chris Jenkinson, of Vacluse make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a high school teacher, in the postcode of 2030.

I have been lucky enough to have a career as a teacher after completing a university degree but this has never stopped me from believing in a strong TAFE system to offer opportunities for others to forge a career in the trades after receiving the best possible training - that training has during my lifetime been supplied by a strong TAFE with highly trained, dedicated TAFE teachers.

TAFE offers the best possible opportunity for young people interested in the trades and the new technology professions to offer their work to the Australian business sector and the community as a whole. Why should those young people be denied the opportunities to get the best possible instruction in the same way that university students do and elite sports people do at the public funded Institute of Sport. It is a

foolish community that wastes the opportunity to train the young, and retrain those who find a commitment to a new career in late life.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Any cut in the budget must, by definition impact on TAFE and it is extremely short sighted. It is only by offering the best possible training that TAFE students can become taxpayers in the future.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is clearly in the national interest to have highly skilled individuals in every sector of working life.

Submitted by

Chris Jenkinson of Vacluse

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, David Granger, of Buttaba make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a engineer, in the postcode of 2283.

Tafe has been the largest provider of education in my life. I started my working career as an apprentice electrician and then went on to study electrical engineering. I have also studied other courses in information technology, diesel vehicle systems, panel beating and spray painting. In some of these technical courses significant investment in infrastructure is required to be able to provide good quality training and this service cannot be provided by smaller organisations so courses either are not available or do not deliver quality learning outcomes. I have two sons both studying engineering, one is completing his degree at university the other a post trade advanced diploma through Tafe. I think the practical trade background produces better engineers that have an understanding of how to carry out tasks.

Tafe allows young people to leave school and enter the workforce so that they can start earning a living straight away. Their education can be continued using the Tafe system allowing them to grow within themselves and the workplace and advance to higher positions. This process matches their practical experience with the position they hold within the organisation that they are employed so that they can be effective and desired employees. This assists with our businesses being cost effective and delivering high quality services and products.

We live in a society where technical developments move very quickly, in order for people to stay abreast of new technology they need a method to study this. Without a facility like Tafe to deliver this education then people fall behind. I work in the mining industry where some of the courses needed to be able to advance your career are not available through RTOs. We have people that start at the ground level and study as they go along to eventually become mine managers. Sometimes people are forced to end their education early due to family constraints and can return to study later in their life.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...education for trades. Where is the next generation of trades people going to come from without Tafe?

My son has just completed his electrical trade, this included sitting for the Capstone exam to get his electrical licence. The pass rate on this exam is higher for Tafe educated apprentices than for RTO educated apprentices.

My son has had to travel down to Wyong Tafe to be able to complete his electrical engineering as he could not get the classes he needed in the evenings at Newcastle. Student fees have gone up a lot, unless the employer is prepared to bear these costs then young people cannot afford to study so they do not upskill.

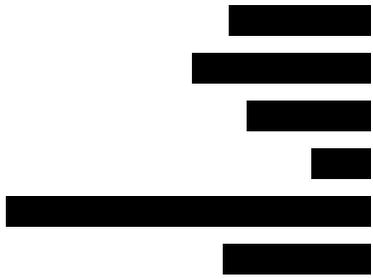
Less courses are available. Take spray painting for example, Glendale is the local campus where this can be studied. There is a lot of investment in spray booths so these should be available for as many courses as possible to get the return on the investment. Lots of people that are interested in cars would like to have access to these facilities, why are there not classes being run for this.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it provides the skilled people we will need tomorrow. Invest in knowledge today so that we can reap the benefit of skills for the years ahead. Short term funding cuts will affect long term viability, it is false economy. In my industry we have a missing generation of middle level management because during the 1990s we reduced our efforts on training. This has the effect of putting people into positions they are not ready for and can reduce workplace safety.

Submitted by

David Granger of Buttaba

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Pauline Hall, of LILYDALE make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Administration Officer, in the postcode of 3122.

I believe I have been an ambassador for TAFE for the last 27 years all of which I have worked in TAFE both here and in South Australia. Not only has TAFE given me the skills that I use to this day and continually update, but they have and are still educating my family as in children and now grandchildren. I have talked young adults into studying at TAFE because of their low self esteem and low opinion of themselves as to not getting 'proper' work, one such young boy loved to tinker with cars, he is now heading up his own electrical mechanics company in Darwin. There are a lot of stories that are like that one, but the students that come into TAFE are normally the ones that don't know which way to go and ones that need that bit more than listening to lectures, they need the structure that TAFE gives. These students are young people who have left school early and people who need to change careers because of accidents or

family commitments, this also covers mothers who chose to stay with their children instead of returning to work from maternity leave, although this is not like it used to be a few years back, women have to return these days they have no choice the cost of living dictates that they do or go without even necessities of daily living such as good food.

I believe the majority of today's lower paid workforce benefit a lot more from TAFE because of the way they are taught. TAFE teachers are skilled in teaching to the vast variety of students who have different learning skills, this brings out the best in students who have thought themselves dumb or dysfunctional they realize that they can learn and learn well. It also gives structure and nurturing with lower levels of learning and the gradual increase over a period of time means that they are more equipped and can cope better. We need this as we open our doors more to the outside world and have more immigrants in the workforce who benefit from learning a trade and the language.

As above I have spoken to many young people who have left school early and have decided what they would like to do but did not realize that they could get into programs which would lead them into areas that they would not otherwise be able to get into, such as University Level, Engineering or Nursing, because they thought they needed a school leaving score higher than they achieved. When given the options of studying certificates at lower levels that would make it possible to achieve their goals and to be able to have a teacher available to them for one on one or confirmation, it's like shining a light for them one that gives them hope for a future.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means that they still have support of their families if they are young, or if they are changing careers or updating their qualifications and have families they do not have to travel far on low incomes or if they

are on benefits and trying to improve their job prospects.

I have heard of some, my own daughter is a state manager at a private RTO fortunately for them she is compliance minded and makes sure that both the students and company meet strict compliance standards. However the ones that don't should be regulated more.

Yes we have lost two campuses, students have to travel at least 1 hr 1/2 to get to the nearest campus OFFERING their program, so that they can complete their studies.

Grossly, not a lot of people are in the position to get their children through University, not on the wages and cut backs in other areas that have occurred throughout the county let alone the state. The lower class again has to struggle to get their children a good education enough to be able to compete with the upper class or higher paid people in this country, and yet these young people who are trying to complete are sometimes more intellectual than those who are born with silver spoons in their mouths and who are exulted into positions because of the 'old school tie' system that still exists in this country. Not what you know its who you know, and what title you have.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because our future generation of Australians (including our immigrants) across all levels in life need to be educated, just as well as our Asian counterparts, who are conquering the world without fighting any battles. Make it fair for Australians not just the minority who's families are well off or who have power to put their children into Private Schools and into Universities with struggles. If you look at a lot of people who have really succeeded in government or industries and who are self-made have roots that go right back to Public/TAFE/Apprenticeships schools, they know what it is like to make ends meet, but in doing so leave the next generation wanting.

Submitted by

Pauline Hall of LILYDALE

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Peter Farrugia, of Port Macquarie make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2444.

I constantly see students who don't quite make the desired ATAR score for university, going to TAFE and making valuable use of the early years of their time out of school to advance their job prospects by doing a course at TAFE

For students living in a rural setting going to cities and towns many kilometres away to attend university at age 17 or 18 is not a viable option. TAFE colleges gives these students the opportunity to advance their educational opportunities whilst gaining maturity after Year 12.

Students from Port Macquarie who I've taught have enrolled in TAFE courses and gained entry and/or jobs with a one or two year course from TAFE as their springboard

to a career they otherwise wouldn't have been able to access.

Fortunately, our local Federal member Mr. Robert Oakeshott, has been instrumental in having Charles Sturt University recently set up a campus which along with TAFE and University of Newcastle keep the Hastings district serviced with tertiary education. This will make a huge difference to the young people of this area who wish to stay in the area or who can't afford to relocate.

Private health and beauty courses, for example, have been on offer from time to time in Port Macquarie, which are expensive and give only very few young and unemployed people casual work for a large up front outlay.

Certainly, fees for some courses have gone through the roof for students who are not in a position to afford such huge increases in fees. Fee increases always impact on participation rates in tertiary education.

Students have to travel to Newcastle or Coffs Harbour now to access courses that once would have been on offer in the Hastings due to numbers for courses.

Families struggle to afford higher education for their children in rural and regional areas when they have to relocate immediately following Year 12. TAFE courses offered in rural areas help keep families together and assist with continuing education for all young people, not just those able to attend university in major towns and cities.

Submitted by

Peter Farrugia of Port Macquarie

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, giovanna iuliano, of littlehampton make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a facilitator of learning, in the postcode of 5000.

I began uni study at 17, left. my mum packed up the family for the united States. came back when i was 21, married at 22, first child at 23. started back on my 'career' with a cert3 in Community services in 1990. this inspired me to go further, went back to university and now have undergrad and post grad degree. I work for the gov in an AS06/3 position. I owe it to the inspirational teachers at Elizabeth TAFE. thank you.

I have come across many new government employees who have received TAFE qualifications. They come to government with a very good knowledge base (theory) and good skill set (practice) It seems that TAFE are good at combining theory and practical opportunities for learners.

yes.. see story above.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

sorry cannot comment on this do not know enough about it.

young people have even fewer options and have to travel further.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦TAFE fills the gaps in learning and development that schools, universities and workplace training cannot fill.

Submitted by

giovanna iuliano of littlehampton

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Marjory Ellsmore, of Glebe make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retired/occasional consultant, in the postcode of 2037.

I studied languages at TAFE. My daughter was able to make the transition to university through a TAFE course though her present full-time employment is on the strength of her TAFE Diploma, as there are few primary school teaching jobs.

Not everyone reaches their potential or knows what area they are suited to or would like to work in while at school or even years after. TAFE offers the opportunity to become employable - in the first instance - to upgrade skills formally, to expand knowledge in a particular field and to add new skills. All of which allows people to reach their full potential and become valued members of and add value to the general community. Smarter workers = stronger workforce = productive society.

For me, the opportunity to learn Italian and Spanish added to my skills as a languages teacher and then as a Languages teaching consultant and principal of a community languages school.

For my daughter, initial disinterest in academic pursuits were overcome by the practical, vocational, profession oriented nature of TAFE certificates and diplomas which allowed her entry into the area of Early Childhood and the realisation that education of children was the area where she wanted to work.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means a huge loss for remote communities. Having worked in supporting Aboriginal languages in Western NSW since retiring, those towns would be lost without the presence of TAFE vocational courses, especially for Aboriginal people who want to stay 'on country' and for all those without the financial and social support to move to the city.

In the area of the provision of English as a second language or for specific purposes, colleges have sprung up that have poorly qualified and underpaid teachers, allowing them to tender for government funding at a lower price, providing lower standard teaching than TAFE - possible because of lack of funding proper supervision of self-regulated Quality assurance provisions.

Colleague language and ESL teachers are to lose jobs due to cuts in budget and loss of funding.

See above. Course in Languages have suffered loss of numbers due to the increased fees required as part of the cuts.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because only a not-for-profit, publicly accountable, highly experienced entity such as TAFE can

properly support the high quality vocational, artistic and life-long learning courses that are essential to the ongoing skilling and up-skilling of our society. Strong funding is needed to ensure that everyone who needs access to TAFE courses can enrol, not just those who can pay.

Submitted by

Marjory Ellsmore of Glebe

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Alex Oliver, of Goodna make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Radio Techniciian, in the postcode of 4300.

I didn't have the grades to go to university, and did menial jobs and spent a lot of time unemployed. I wasn't confident applying for Uni as a mature age student but found Tafe very accessible and less financially daunting. I did sound engineering and electronics and found my prospects and confidence improved. I have now been employed full time at a radio station for a period of 10yrs, and will be returning to Tafe to further my education.

Definitely, it gives you real world skills and is accessible and affordable. Tafe is vital!

Tafe has taken me from being unemployed, unskilled and unconfident to being the opposite. Without Tafe I would not be where I am now, happily employed

I am very concerned by any potential funding cuts to Tafe, it is the only option for many, to improve their positions.

Please consider what Tafe means to people who might not be able to go to university. It's a lifeline, an affordable, accessible opportunity to improve your options, and a pathway to University further on. Cutting funds to Tafe, is cutting the lifeline to skills and education for so many, a terrible thing to do.

Submitted by

Alex Oliver of Goodna

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Rachel McGuigan, of Brunswick West make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a , in the postcode of 3055.

I am a mother of two young children and took the opportunity after they were born, to go to uni to add to my skill base as a graphic artist. I wanted the ability to study part-time whilst juggling my family to advance my existing skills and give myself more options to work in different fields of design. As a family we took the decision that my husband continue to work fulltime whilst I studied and be primary carer to our children, this has stretched our funds but thought it to be an investment in our future.

The cuts are impacting on the course I am currently undertaking (Dip of Textile Design and Dev) in reduction of staff. This will be a difficult and probably untenable situation

for the staff that will remain to effectively deliver the course.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because I strongly believe that the cuts right across the board will affect the economy, if there are fewer people with the skills needed to feed the various industries, this will further push more business and factories offshore hastening the demise of what remains in Australia including skills. Invest in the people and they will give back with their hard work and money.

Submitted by

Rachel McGuigan of Brunswick West

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Tracy Williams, of Bathurst make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a disability care worker, in the postcode of 2795.

I left school part way through year 10 because of difficult home circumstances. I returned to TAFE to complete my yr 10 certificate and a HSC equivalent called TPC. Since then I have completed a cert 4 in Community Services, Alcohol & Other Drug and Mental Health. I am currently completing my Diploma in Community Services. Without TAFE I would still be an unqualified, good for nothing high school drop out.

It gives people the opportunity to rectify the wrong choices they have made in the past. People can upskill, reskill and try a new career, we don't always have to remain stagnate because we once made a bad choice or our circumstances are now different.

I left school part way through year 10 because of difficult home circumstances. I

returned to TAFE to complete my yr 10 certificate and a HSC equivalent called TPC. Since then I have completed a cert 4 in Community Services, Alcohol & Other Drug and Mental Health. I am currently completing my Diploma in Community Services. Without TAFE I would still be an unqualified, good for nothing high school drop out.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...I don't have the choices for training that my city cousins have. I strongly rely on TAFE to deliver a wide variety of courses that are relevant to the jobs available in my town, as the opportunities to train through other institutions are very limited and usually only occur through an employer, choice is limited.

living in Bathurst NSW means that TAFE is our only option, although I have heard of other training institutions who can complete similar qualifications in shorter time periods. This worries me because i dont feel that the students using these places are receiving a rounded education, rather are just paying for there quals.

cuts to courses & support services, as well proposed increases in student fees for next year and teaching job losses.

I have noticed that there is additional hardship due to the increase of fees and lack of study support?

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦i believe that if TAFE is underfunded we will see a surge in private training institutions that are not as diligent and thorough as TAFE. It will also mean that education will belong to those that can afford to pay overly exorbitant fees for private institutions.

Submitted by

Tracy Williams of Bathurst

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Suzanne Kay, of Gosnells make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a SocialTrainerr, in the postcode of 6110.

I dropped out of School in year 12, tried to complete two units of it by correspondence but failed, completed some study at work and gained my cert 3, but again failed, my cert 4 in Disability Services. Went to Tafe and passed my Cert 4 Disability, my cert 3 Frontline Management, failed my cert 4 Front line Management but passed some units. Then started my cert 4 in Visual Arts and Contemporary Craft part time in 2006, passed that in 2011, or 2012. Have started on my Diploma in Visual Art and Contemporary craft. Being able to go back and study changed my life. I no longer feel like a drop out, and hope I am a positive role model for my children and others.

Develop skills and self confidence

see above

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

na

lack of course options

not known

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it changes peoples lives.

Submitted by

Suzanne Kay of Gosnells

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Paul Crosisca, of North Mackay make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a Manager Videolinq TAFE Qld, in the postcode of 4740.

I have been working in Videolinq- TAFE Qld's videoconferencing (VC) network since inception in 1996. Thus far the unit has established 135 sites across the state for administrative and education delivery purposes. In 2012 the network did over 30,000 hours of transmission including meetings to establish courses, to resource course, other admin and most important;ly, to deliver training to geographical distributed areas that would not necessarily have availability of specialised TAFE training.

TAFE and it's teachers are the glue that binds trade training in this country- without them the quality of teaching and the availability of courses will significantly decrease. Unfortunately many courses that are not profitable are still extremely significant to those people living in remote and rural centres where it is not economically viable to

deliver training.

Many TAFE students particularly trades people tend to be those who did not do well academically and who were the 'rowdy' ones, the class clowns- throwing stuff at each other rather than doing their work. The issue is related to learning style and the need for purpose and hands on education. Those kids that fail academia go on to become the trades backbone of our nation and in many cases the only reason they progress is because of TAFE the institution and the availability of a less formal education process which is supported by trade teachers who care about the future of those 'rowdy' kids.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means an opportunity to establish credentials and earn a trade that will provide a productive future for the students and their families. Here, in central Qld, in the mining boom the area lives and breathes trades skills and training expertise. Whilst private RTO's may well coordinate their training, our local TAFE delivers the training to the students using traditional and new mixed media delivery blends to accommodate availability and access across the large distances of the central Qld area.

The one specific example I experienced was where a joint friend's son was doing Hospitality training at a local RTO and the work experience component was acting as waiters at private wedding functions of people known to the training providers. I have heard second hand of a variety of poorly coordinated lower quality training courses being offered in a number of Mining based skill areas. Participants soon find out the 'attendance' slips they get on course completion are unacceptable to a fully certified mining industry yet a number of people from the south still get taken in at a local level based on shonky RTO promises of jobs in the mines.

The number of people here at Mackay TAFE has significantly dwindled after repeated

downsizing over the last 5 years. This process has been ramped up since the new Govt took office. There is no money, no resources and for many TAFE teachers little hope of resolution under the current government review which found that TAFE teachers conditions are too well healed as compared to RTO personnel. The result is a restructure from July 1 2013 which threatens to take away all aspects of the existing award. Many students come to TAFE with bad literacy and math levels. TAFE teachers need additional hours and smaller classes with specialised assistant teachers to support these students. That is where the extras hours in the award come in. Working at many levels in a one on one scenario with those students who have difficulties is required to assist those students to successfully complete the courses. The proposed CQU merger will isolate and destroy large numbers of these students who are unable to work in an independent environment. They will fail because the University system does not suit their needs or their abilities. At TAFE many of these students would pass and go on to be highly successful trades people adding to the productivity of the nations economy.

As stated, no money, no resources, no operational decisions because nobody knows what is going on until after July 1. The entire system is in enforced disarray and is at this time, and I believe until 1 July, totally dysfunctional. Many staff are depressed and apathetic as they approach an unknown but commonly believed, dispondent future that will destroy their own educational careers and the future structure of TAFE teaching for CQIT adolescent students .

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE forms the backbone of quality education and training that deals with teaching students what they need to know to become productive members of society. TAFE was implemented to rescue the non-academics and harvest and revive those kids who didn't agree with the teaching and learning process in the formal school setting. TAFE

is society's commitment to providing the training that is needed by our contemporary Australian community at this time. Don't axe TAFE to outsource training services which will prove more economical in the short term but deliver less diversity and more questionable outcomes in the longer term. Look at the recent training debacles of Victorian RTO's. Keep Australian industry strong. Deliver high quality training and demand high level certification from industry training. Anything short of this and Australia will lose its way to the Asian competitors that surround us. We need to retain a strong skills base and a stronger discipline of skills growth in order to fuel Australia's productivity and requirement into the future.

Submitted by

Paul Crosisca of North Mackay

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, David Vroland, of North Coburg make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a industrial officer, in the postcode of 3053.

If it wasn't for TAFE, I'd still be working as a C12 factory hand. TAFE enabled me to get the skills required to work as a electronics technician which then opened a whole range of doors and career prospects.

University is not for everyone. Technical and trade skills are much better learnt in the kind of environment that TAFE's provide with rigorous practical training in a slightly less formal setting. TAFE's are essential as nexus points for this kind of training. This kind of education is not just beneficial for the individual but for the rest of society as well - and as such an essential matter of public interest it should be kept in the public sector where quality of service, not profit comes first.

Before I started at TAFE I was on the dole, in the middle of an economic recession. TAFE provided me with the necessary skills to find employment.

N/A

Absolutely. This kind of education seems to me really to be aimed at cashing in on government funding by providing the most stripped down, low cost service possible. I'm sick of hearing about these places going into administration and leaving unwary students high and dry. I'm also very much aware of the "tick and flick" mentality of many of these organisations and have real concerns about the competence of their graduates.

Not personally.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because of all of the above reasons. Education is a vital PUBLIC INTEREST. Understanding this is the key to understanding why TAFE's cannot be replaced by private providers. It's not just about providing education to individuals - It's about ensuring that the skills necessary for a robust modern society are properly taught and that vital know how is preserved for the public good in general.

Submitted by

David Vroland of North Coburg

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Pola Lekstan, of Mile End make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a small business operator, in the postcode of 5007.

I achieved my Leaving Certificate in 1972. Because of my gender I was discouraged from further education. When I left school I was employed in various unsatisfying jobs until together with my partner I started my own business.

After having children I was a stay at home parent and worked on the business book-keeping at home.

In recent years I have attended TAFE and completed a certificate IV in Women's Education. I received the education I had missed out on in my youth. I improved my writing and computer skills and developed skills in research and presenting. I gained confidence to continue studying.

I was one, among many students at TAFE, who had either been a stay-at-home mother or a young person without sufficient skills or confidence to enter the work force or University. I witnessed fellow class-mates achieving their goals of securing employment or being accepted into University after completing their TAFE studies.

For the past few years I have been again working in our family business. However due to the physical nature of our work and the fact that we are aging, my partner and I will be closing our present business soon and embarking on a new venture.

In order to prepare for this change I am currently studying part-time at TAFE while continuing to work in our family business. The success of our new business will highly depend on the skills I am currently developing at TAFE.

Like many small family business owners, my partner's superannuation is negligible and mine is nil. We expect to be working long into our old age and therefore we will at times need to upgrade our skills to keep up with change. TAFE has and will play an important role in our future.

TAFE fills a gap that is not provided for by Universities. It provides training and education for those who for whatever reason have left their formal education incomplete and are not ready for University and also for those who need training in skills that University does not provide. I therefore urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded in order that we have an education system that is inclusive and offers training and education for all members of society.

Submitted by

Pola Lekstan of Mile End

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Ralph Berry, of Weymouth make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a Teacher, in the postcode of 7252.

In our region I see an average of 30 new electrical trades people graduate every year and become vital players in the national economy.

An average of 40 people a year receive training to help them contribute to safe practices with electricity in the workplace.

30 electricians a year study for their contracting licence using our on line learning facilities.

At least 25 tradespeople return to qualify in data cabling and fibreoptic skills each year.

Our graduates feed straight into the economy and start making a difference to the availability of electrical and communication services within this state and across the country. Their earnings capacity has increased and the economy benefits from their

savings and consumption.

The apprenticeship program has the built in capacity to allow struggling students to receive additional tuition to improve their chances of successful completion of their course.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means ...

Curriculum work and customer relations work has been forced down to the teachers who now have little or no support to do their teaching and the other work expected of them. The level of employer dissatisfaction is increasing and the management of TAFE is pushing the blame for this down to teachers who have been deprived of the budget flexibility to deal with the issues. The focus of TAFE has moved from the teaching and assessment to Budgets and Bulls..t. Form filling and miitae of compliance occupy the minds of staff and wider issues related to the quality of the learning environment are pushed aside. The introduction of electronic learning is treated as some sort of amusing game played by the teachers and not a serious part of the big change sweeping through the world of information access. Many opportunities for efficiency and improved service to industry and learners is being squandered.

Many teaching positions that plainly were not redundant were cut leaving industries and students unserved. Certificate 4 and diploma courses have disappeared along with the skilled teachers who ran them. This will eventually lead to a severe shortage of paraprofessional people in areas that are vital to the country's future productivity. Some workplaces are too dangerous to conduct assessment and training on the job and require genuine simulations with control over safety and work process. Budget

cuts mean that it is becoming impossible to assess these competencies and the skills and qualifications will disappear as TAFES can no longer support them.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because our country has succeeded in the past on the innovation and veratility of its workforce. This will not be possible if the learning systems are not given a higher priority than the regulatory systems. No teacher in my area has received any professional development opportunity for at least three years, this means that when I retire from the workforce my skills will be lost as there is no mechanism for passing them on.

Submitted by

Ralph Berry of Weymouth

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Gus Logan, of Coalcliff make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Electrical Engineer, in the postcode of 2508.

I left high school and chose not to go to university full time, instead i was lucky to get employment in my field so that i could study at university part time so that i got all the practical skills i required through work. At the completion of my degree i then went to TAFE to obtain my electrician's licence. It is not required to have an electrician's licence to be an electrical engineer but it has a practical element that better rounds an engineer.

In my experience, university is a place that teaches with the aim to either prepare you for further studies or for research. The practical element of what you were being taught was missing. TAFE is the place that better prepares someone for the workplace as it aim is to prepare someone for the workplace. This also means that is is far more

productive method of teaching.

The big talk is always on how do we improve productivity. It has to come from being better skilled so that we produce better quality output and do it in a way that is more efficient. My belief is that TAFE has always been better at providing this.

TAFE is also better equipped to provide short, targeted training in specific areas that are required to improve your skillset. That is, short one session or one year courses that target an immediate need in the workplace.

For example, i needed to recently learn how to use CAD (computer aided drafting).

Courses were available by TAFE however they were not available in my area nor were they specifically targeting electrical CAD so in the end i never took any training instead having to laboriously teach myself.

I could think of numerous other technical areas i would like to undergo short course on but are not available.

Wollongong TAFE is a far cry from what it used to offer back in the 90's and i only see this trend continuing.

With more people going to university and then finding work in non related areas, it has to be questioned whether TAFE would be a better more efficient place of study and place for government funding.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because training is the key to unlocking productivity. The short term gains of reducing funding is impacting in the medium to longer term. Investment is required with the view to longer term prosperity.

Submitted by

Gus Logan of Coalcliff

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Anne Bomann Maansson, of Muswellbrook make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a educator/director, in the postcode of 2333.

I have studied at TAFE to gain my early early childhood qualifications, I later went of to Uni for my teaching degree. I have also taught at TAFE and every year my centre accept a number of students for work practice here.

I believe that at present the TAFE is one of the better places child care educators get their qualifications from. Many of the private training organisations do not provide the training new educators need when they join the early childhood profession.

In my field there are many mature women entering the workforce when their children has gone off to school and they have gained not only the educational qualifications needed for the care and education of the children but they have also gained the

confidence to become strong dedicated workers in the early childhood educational field.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...that we in Muswellbrook are able to educate our young and not so young here rather than having to send them off to the big smoke with the big expense. It also give people in regional areas the ability to gain some qualifications and make

I spoke about this earlier. If a new applicant for work comes here with qualifications from some of the private service providers I would be reluctant to employ them.

There have been cut to the number and quality of programs offered at the TAFE.

The funding cut is responsible for the the lack of security of staff, the poorer quality of teaching and lack of resources.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦Many of the industries need the teaching and training TAFE has been conduction in the past and the private for profit providers do not provide appropriate training to their students and this can be detrimental for many industies and environments.

Submitted by

Anne Bomann Maansson of Muswellbrook

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Therese Douglas, of Wahrenga make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

TAFENSW has played an important role in my life, both as a student and as a worker.

My mother and I studied for our HSC at Hornsby College. I then studied Education at Sydney University but needed to do an art course through Meadowbank College as the university was not able to offer one.

Years later living in the Hunter Valley I accessed a TAFENSW Outreach course through Muswellbrook College to find out more about caring in a sustainable manner for our rural block. This course also inspired me to further my study and I completed a Masters through external study at UNE.

I am now employed as an Outreach Coordinator at a Sydney college. I work with a dedicated team of teachers to develop and deliver courses for people who have been

marginalised from mainstream education. This may be because of disability, experience of being a refugee, having been in gaol or other difficult life circumstances.

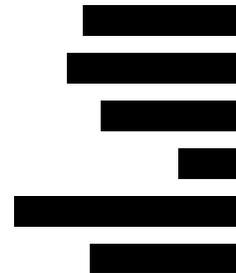
We see these students gain in self confidence and then move onto mainstream courses, work or become more active in the community.

I have experienced firsthand as a student, teacher and coordinator the power of education and training to inspire and encourage people to further themselves and society. Who will offer second chances in education and training if TAFENSW is no longer able to offer such courses?

Submitted by

Therese Douglas of Wahroonga

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Robert Smith, of Dulwich Hill make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Education Officer, in the postcode of 2203.

I worked for Tafe as a Senior Education Officer from 1974 to 1988.I saw first hand how TAFE courses give essential knowledge and skills to citizens from all age and social groups. We need skilled workers in Australia to make the country productive and good to live in.

Tafe gives skills to persons in cooking, carpentry, tour guiding, radio broadcasting, woolclassing and many other trade, technical and professional areas. Also it gives new immigrants into Australia essential English speaking and writing skills.

A friend upgrading her skills in working with the disabled

Some of the private English colleges in Sydney appear to not have the requisite teaching standards.

My sister works for TAFE and is worried about her job security.

The course fees are too high. It has deterred me from doing a TAFE course.

TAFE offers well structured courses in classrooms where qualified teachers assist students to achieve. The courses are all independently accredited as quality courses. Don't mess with it!

Submitted by

Robert Smith of Dulwich Hill

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Jenny Shanley, of Manly make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a graphic design educator, in the postcode of 2095.

I started my tertiary studies at TAFE, in fine arts. I now have post-graduate qualifications in design and in vocational education and am back at TAFE teaching. My formative studies in TAFE were critical to my professional career as a graphic designer and as a teacher/trainer. As a creative professional, I still refer to those early studies to inform my practice.

A fully funded TAFE is essential to provide a strongly supportive social framework that allows for ALL Australians to engage fully in our economy and society, giving value and meaning to their lives.

Many students who come to TAFE are there because it is the only available stepping

stone for them into employment.

Private providers are only interested in the bottom line. TAFE teachers are passionate about people and learning.

Budget cuts are already having an impact. Arts as we know is severely affected, but so are the social support services such as Outreach, which has had a strong partnership with mental health services. This link is critical and threatened.

Our department building's photocopier machine broke down in February. It will not be fixed. We now have to walk to another building in order to photocopy materials for students. There is no study support available, whilst concurrently students with mental health disabilities have increased dramatically due to the cuts in arts and Outreach.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the quality of life all Australians is equally important.

Submitted by

Jenny Shanley of Manly

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Julie Ingleby, of Daylesford make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a , in the postcode of 3460.

For seven years I co-coordinated an education program for disaffected and troubled teenagers unaccommodated by mainstream schools: some already in trouble with the law. The program was able to demonstrate positive results for more than 80% of it students. Without TAFE this success rate would have been much lower.

TAFE provided re-entry into education and a pathway to productive employment for students unable to respond positively to academic expectations of mainstream secondary education. The learning needs of these students were better met at TAFE which was able to cater for a wider range of learning styles.

In my own case, during a period of unemployment in the early 1990s, TAFE enabled me

to readily upgrade my skills and access jobs previously unavailable to me. It also augmented my professional skills base for reentry into my profession when new employment opportunities emerged.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means continued learning and skills expansion can occur even when university is not an option. It enables people who might otherwise drift into unemployability to continue to participate in educational experiences promoting employment potential and preparing them to play a responsible role in society. Importantly, regional TAFEs are able to respond more directly to local employment needs.

Ballarat TAFE has significantly cut its programs. The impact of this will be felt across the region.

My professional experience leaves me in no doubt that the consequences will be very destructive; both for youth needing skill development and for older people needing retraining and skill expansion.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because without it, youth needing skill development and older people needing retraining and skill expansion, stand to become socially and economically disenfranchised. This will incur costs that will far outweigh the effective funding of TAFE.

Submitted by

Julie Ingleby of Daylesford

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Natalie Denmeade, of Wingham make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2430.

I completed a BA and then two year TAFE diploma in IT and networking. This gave me hands on skills. I have been employed fulltime in my industry thanks to TAFE. And I get to stay in a regional area of Australia, and share my knowledge with my students.

I teach Digital Media and IT at TAFE. These are basic literacy skills required in 21st century. They underpin all other skills.

I had family support issues and left school at 15 years of age. I returned to higher Ed when I was 25 and again when I was 35. I have just completed three MOOCs in Gamification, Designing New Learning Environments, and Aboriginal World views and Education. I am a lifelong learner and wish everyone in this world had the same

opportunities I have had. It would be a very different world.

I live in a very small town. I was brought up in Sydney and chose to leave (a long time ago) to enjoy the peace and beauty of Australia. I have found work in this region being employed by TAFE. I studied at the local TAFE 14 years ago and stayed in the area. I have contributed to my community because of the skills I learnt at TAFE. I now develop eLearning resources for TAFE and teach local people to do the same.

Many of my students do not have the confidence or desired to leave town to pursue education or work. Losing courses, or campuses, will mean they stay at home - bored, (and dangerous). It is better for everyone if public education covers the cost of providing education to remote and regional communities.

There were potential Diploma students this year who didn't enrol due to fees .

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because our whole community will suffer if we further marginalise people and groups.

Submitted by

Natalie Denmeade of Wingham

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Karen Webb, of Caves Beach make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a TAFE Counsellor, in the postcode of 2302.

As a TAFE Counsellor of over 11 years, I meet with many prospective and enrolled TAFE students to discuss both their hopes and plans for their vocational future/s. It never ceases to amaze me how divergent the population of people wanting to access, and go onto participate in, TAFE learning is. However, many TAFE students are from disadvantaged backgrounds and so low cost, quality education options are critical for this group to create a better future, and transition from their current socio-economic circumstances. Importantly, TAFE is the only VET provider that provides free access to support services like TAFE Counselling and Career Services, Disability Units and libraries. Thus, support from these internal services enhances the chances of TAFE students achieving their potential and completing their personally chosen vocational goal.

TAFE trains many people who may not have the capacity &/or interest in participating in other Higher Education training options (e.g. university), who then go on to provide critical services in all communities across Australia. The most well-known are apprentices, who go on to become trades-people providing valuable services everyday (e.g. electricians, mechanics, plumbers, plasterers, chefs, bakers, butchers etc.). But there are also the less well-known graduates of TAFE, such as lab technicians, surveyors, draftsmen, community services workers, and enrolled nurses, to name a few. So, in order to continue to meet these community demands (i.e. a smart and strong Australian workforce), it is critical that TAFE remain adequately funded, to ensure that viable, quality training options exist for all Australians.

I have met with many TAFE students who have benefited from a second chance at education, as they have either 'slipped through the net' at school, or had life throw circumstances at them that prevented them from accessing education &/or further education. One memorable case involved an introverted young man who had not been able to continue at any school long enough to obtain basic literacy skills, because the violence and mental illness of one parent meant that this child and the other parent had to keep relocating for protection purposes. This young man met with me and, despite being too young (<15 yrs) to attend TAFE (we submitted an exceptional case to the Institute Director, which was subsequently approved), we devised an educational pathway to achieve his long-term goal of becoming an archeologist. He started in Adult Basic Education (pre-Year 10 studies) and then completed his Yr 10 equivalent before commencing HSC at TAFE. The last time I saw this young man, he was studying his HSC, and was a happy, socially interactive young man, who was working hard to achieve an ATAR score high enough to study at University. I feel confident he would have made it to university because of his potential and motivation. Without TAFE, and access to the opportunity to plan an educational pathway with a qualified person, this young man, and many more like him, would remain without adequate

literacy skills to participate effectively in Australian society, and the chance to work towards an achievable dream.

I also benefited from a second chance at Education, as I left school early (i.e. end of Year 10) but returned to TAFE to complete the Tertiary Preparation Certificate at 28 years of age, after having a family. I subsequently continued onto University study (4 years full-time), eventually qualifying as a Registered Psychologist at 36 years of age. TAFE changed my life, and the subsequent academic, vocational and economic lives of my three children and life partner. TAFE creates pathways for people who would otherwise have limited opportunities to change their life circumstances.

When living on the Mid North Coast of NSW, in a less highly populated area, being able to go to TAFE meant accessing second chance educational opportunities, that led to the development of skills necessary to compete for scarce employment opportunities and/or development of innovative, creative initiatives (e.g. local ceramic industry). Further cuts to these regional areas will mean that local people will not have access to skills development, and people from outside will need to be parachuted in to provide such services, or the community will 'go without'. Worse still, this will also mean that young people aspiring towards vocational goals will need to leave the regional area and therefore be unlikely to participate in and contribute towards their home community in the future. A community without young people is not a 'whole' community, in my opinion, and one that cannot create its own future for itself lacks the important ingredients of hope and vision needed in sustainable and vital communities.

We have had funding cuts to Catering, Information Technology, Fine Arts, Music Production and HSC (and other pre-vocational) courses (to name a few) in the Hunter

Institute. This has led to loss of jobs for experienced TAFE teachers, who have often developed the knowledge and skills over many years in Industry. We have also had increases in student fees which directly affect Centrelink recipients (100% increase in fees over the past year) accessing TAFE education. This means that people who most need to develop skills to compete effectively for jobs (because they often don't have other advantages such as friends or families with available opportunities on offer), are least able to, and therefore further disadvantaged in our communities. This, in turn, can lead to entrenched poverty, welfare dependency, resentment, and ultimately social unrest and crime, simply as a result of less opportunity to access education.

Barry O'Farrell's NSW government has seriously affected both the range of courses available within TAFE, and the ability for disadvantaged people to access remaining courses, which will have ramifications for many years to come. In Victoria, the significant cuts made to the VET sector, particularly TAFE, and subsequent privatisation of VET, resulted in 'shonky' operators profiteering from 'voucher system education' (please refer to ABC '7.30 Report' or NSW Teachers Federation for more detail), as well as the closure of many TAFE colleges in Victoria. We must learn from this mistake, and not repeat it here in NSW.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the development of skills in the Australian economy relies on the development of opportunities for Australians to improve themselves and their life and employment prospects. TAFE has a long history in delivering service and programmes that support regions, communities and disadvantaged individuals to access training and skills which enables them to find a pathway to employment. Without these opportunities, many disadvantaged will miss out on bettering their life circumstances, and the Australian community and economy will miss out on the contribution from this available and willing potential workforce.

Submitted by

Karen Webb of Caves Beach

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Shirley Neeson, of Dandenong make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

My 27 year old son successfully studied 3 different courses through TAFE, which has meant he has a very impressive array of skills. If it was not for TAFE, he would have found it very difficult to obtain long term sustainable employment. TAFE is an affordable, important option for people, funding should be increased, not cut.

Submitted by
Shirley Neeson of Dandenong
Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Grant Woollard, of Kewdale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Business and Process Analyst, in the postcode of 6000.

I attended TAFE, or Technical College as it was referred to then, after leaving school. It enabled me to attain a trade certificate. Being a qualified tradesman has been most useful in developing my career.

TAFE contributes to building a smarter stronger Australian workforce, by training people to a high standard, and contributing to ensuring Australia has a sufficiently skilled workforce. It also promotes opportunities for young Australians and to people that are resident in Australia

I initially left high school without fully completing a year ten achievement certificate. Attending TAFE gave me the opportunity to get a trade.

I believe in many instances the quality of our education appears to be declining.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because, it is important to ensure there are opportunities for Australia's up and coming generations, and to also ensure that Australia has an appropriately skilled workforce to sustain future growth and development.

Submitted by

Grant Woollard of Kewdale

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Cate Davey, of North Hobart make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I have spent the majority my post compulsory education by gaining of additional skills and training at TAFE campuses in Tasmania and NSW. As I grew up in the North West coast of Tasmania and there was no university campus at that time, the only affordable educational pathway option for me was TAFE.

Both jobs and opportunities were very limited in the 1980's but TAFE stood out as a shining light of providing some direction, basic skills, support and advice to undertake more training - which was affordable and achievable. I have never completed any university study and now believe it would be unaffordable.

I have studied stenography at an after school night course at TAFE.

At the end of year 10 I enrolled and completed a 2 year Fashion & Design Certificate. When I found it difficult to get work in my local area I undertook Hospitality & Tourism training at the Drysdale Institute annex and gained employment in state capital - Hobart.

I subsequently enrolled in a Commercial cookery course at the Drysdale Institute and went on to complete my Commercial Cookery at the Ryde Institute of TAFE in NSW after leaving Tasmania to find work and better opportunities.

All of this experience at TAFE has given me a good basis for comparing what was available when funding and promotion of TAFE education and training was valued by industry.

I believe declining funding to TAFE has left regional and remote communities in poorer socio-economically depressed areas exposed to increased levels of higher unemployment for the simple fact that what was once a highly sought after education has now become the 'dirt poor second cousin' to university education.

You only have to turn the TV on or read a newspaper to see universities promoted - there is very little for TAFE and nothing promoting TAFE on TV.

What was once a proud educational institution looks shabby and ashamed of itself. Education options should be available, achievable and affordable for all.

Submitted by

Cate Davey of North Hobart

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Rhonda Andrews, of Mirrabooka make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Teacher, in the postcode of 6016.

I have found TAFE over the years to have been an invaluable avenue for learning. Personally I have enrolled in numerous courses over the years some purely for interest and some which have lead me to employment. E.g. Certificate of Comercial Cookery, Diploma of Applied Languages - Spanish
I believe that TAFEs are an essential part of the Education system & essential if we want to have skilled trades people in this country.

TAFE focuses on practical applications in all fields of learning so that when one enters the workforce one is able to apply what one knows and is not left floundering as is the case in purely academic courses.

Not only did TAFE help me to find work in the Hospitality Industry but through completing a Diploma in Applied Languages in Spanish I was able to find employment in DET teaching Spanish in a primary school and this led me to receiving a scholarship to study in an intensive language course at La Universidad de Don Quijote in Salamanca in Spain.

In the past I did live in Regional areas of W.A. and TAFE was the only means of accessing further education. I would hate to see funding cut to TAFES especially as it would directly disadvantage the rural population of our state who already are disadvantaged in many ways, especially in the area of medical care.

Whilst I have not personally witnessed an increase in poorly regulated private colleges with lower standards than TAFE I have read newspaper articles which indicate that this is in fact happening.

I have not recently accessed a TAFE course so I can't say in what way TAFE is currently being affected by cuts to the budget but one doesn't have to be too bright to work out that a cut to the budget is going to directly result in a cut in the services & courses TAFE is able to offer.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is essential to ensure that we have well trained Trades people entering our workforce. TAFE is also essential for offering the rural population a chance to further their education. Finally it gives people an opportunity to be educated who may not have had access to education earlier in life...it gives people a second chance...it gives hope.

Submitted by

Rhonda Andrews of Mirrabooka

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Michael Brown, of Allambie Heights make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 35 years old and work as a Teacher, in the postcode of 2007.

TAFE set up my entry in University which enabled me to become a teacher

It gives people that have less opportunity in our society to gain entry to a skilled workplace or uni

A music student who has a mild intellectual disability has managed to go on to his diploma.

I live in Sydney

Yes

Private providers accepting enrolments in courses where the students are not capable of passing. Good educational outcomes and retention are not considered as long as they get their money.

You cant run education for profit. The evidence is thst the government has to fund the private providers. So much for the word private

Yes

Less admin workers. More mistakes in admin.

Sudents struggling to meet the rising cost of courses

Less teachers working

Remaining teachers taking up the slack with less time to meet student needs

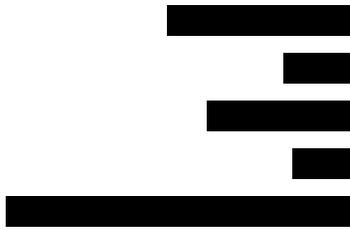
Well all tafe teaching jobs are at risk ana campuses being rented out to private providers

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because educational principles should be put ahead of education for profit. Education must be effective the first time that willsave money in the long run. It can be expensive funding a disfunctional private provider.

Submitted by

Michael Brown of Allambie Heights

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Claire Renehan, of Collingwood make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Jeweller, in the postcode of 3066.

I'm currently at TAFE studying jewellery and if funding for TAFE and this course ceased then I would not have the opportunity to pursue this line of work. The only other course in this field is a longer degree that incurs huge HECS debts has a very different approach to this field.

TAFE often offers that prepare students for employment in a way that university degrees do not.

Having studied at university a field that I could not find employment in after a year of applying for jobs, I to study TAFE in a different field. In my first year of this course I found employment in this field and am thoroughly enjoying the second chance TAFE

offered me!

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦

Submitted by

Claire Renehan of Collingwood

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Clive Selley, of Bathurst, NSW make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am a retired fitter and Turner, 69 years old and I am concerned that TAFE funding or courses will be cut.

I was never a good pupil at school, but when I started TAFE in the first year of my apprenticeship, I found the atmosphere different to school and I progressed well even in subjects that had confounded me.

Everyone was there to gain the knowledge necessary to be a good tradesman. We thought it was wonderful that we got paid to go to school one day a week. There was a compulsory evening class to attend once a week and if you didn't attend you failed the year and had to repeat it next year. Nobody failed, peer pressure can be useful. I took three night classes a week for six years to gain welding qualifications. That with my fitter trade was very useful in later years.

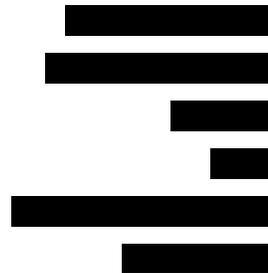
While I do not have any first hand knowledge of the situation at TAFE colleges today, except what I read in the media, I am aware that there was a shortage of tradesmen

when I was at work a few years ago which forced employers to take on anyone who could show some mechanical ability. This only deskilled the workforce and created tradesmens dissatisfaction and reduced the pride they had in their trade. Combine that with comparatively poor wages and no wonder they are leaving the trade. We must bring pride back into being a tradesman. TAFE is where it starts.

Submitted by

Clive Selley of Bathurst, NSW

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Lorraine Harrison, of Newport make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a social worker, in the postcode of 3015.

Attending one subject called Behavioural Studies in my twenties gave me a thirst for studies and the confidence to continue with studies as a working class person living in Newport.

TAFE is an excellent provider for students to continue their education and future work/career opportunities.

TAFE was the stepping stone for me to continue my education after leaving secondary school at the end of year 10(4th Form). From TAFE I went onto VU (then it was Footscray Institute of Technology), then full time RMIT (then PIT) for a 4 year bachelor of Social Work. From there a Masters in Clinical Social at Melbourne University.

Currently I have a PhD pending final Chair of Examiners review and I will be a Doctor of Philosophy from Victoria University in Melbourne.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes I certainly have noticed the lower standards coming from private colleges.

Yes I have noticed the fewer students around TAFE campus in Nicholson Street, Footscray. As well I read the Age and particularly information on TAFE cuts.

The funding cuts obviously has effected TAFEs i.e. fewer courses

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because as a civilised society we must ensure a decent education for all of its citizens. TAFE offers many opportunities, including a stepping stone to continue on with higher education achievements.

Submitted by

Lorraine Harrison of Newport

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Colin Harriss, of New Norfolk make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Social Worker, in the postcode of 7140.

Tafe was the beginning after I left High School. I studied electrical engineering. I had a serious industrial accident and lost my job, marriage and home. However the habit of studying had begun and achieved a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in psychology, a bachelor of social work as well as a masters in advanced social work practice. I now save the tax payer hundreds of thousands of dollars per year in helping others get their lives back together after many serious traumas. I love my job and would do it for nothing (dont' tell anyone). I have a purpose in my life and great job satisfaction. What can I say!

Learning to understand the physical world, developed research skills, practical skills, learning skills, increased confidence and self esteem.

It gave me a life when previously I had none.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means trying to negotiate time off work, not easy. Finding ways of paying for transport and petrol. Finding greater amounts of time to travel rather than study. Using up useful amounts of energy that could otherwise be used to study

There have been a number over the years that have not had qualified teachers, numbers of pupils rather than quality have been their main goal.

Yes, they have resulted in the cutting of important subjects that have been crucial in student understanding by describing the context in which people will live and work.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it provides specialist skills and knowledge as well as credibility and employability that is not offered in any other sector

Submitted by

Colin Harriss of New Norfolk

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, , of Yagoona make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Mail officer, in the postcode of 2136.

I study at TAFE at a monent.

TAFE is the place to provide the opportunity for someone who can not attend university but still can learn their skills

I learn English in TAFE, my English is improve, so I can be able the story abut my life.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means the people don't have chance to study even they want to study.

The private colleges charge a higher fee. TAFE is better.

Some TAFE can have the course which some people want to study.

Some course that the people but can not get it.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE is important to us. Because I have learned at TAFE, I can write the story name 'My escape', which around 10000 words. The story stated the hard time of the journey of the sea.f

Submitted by

of Yagoona

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Paul Bajada, of Chippendale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Teacher, in the postcode of 2000.

My experience as a part-time TAFE teacher has proven to me, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that TAFE plays an indispensable role within our community. TAFE occupies a unique place within the vocational educational sector. In fact, it is the heart and sole of all trade based, and practically orientated vocations.

There is no other form of institute that adequately imparts the real-world techniques necessary for tangible skills and services within the Australian workforce. While universities are valuable for their theoretical approaches to learning, TAFE is indispensable for its practical approaches. I have worked as a Teacher within many RTOs (within at least 10 different institutes over the years), and they do not maintain the same rigorous standards as TAFE. This is in part due to the fact that once

commercial interests are at play, education can become compromised.

We are currently implementing programs within TAFE that properly teach students the intensively practical skills needed to work within the Industry I am from. There is no other form of institute that can adequately facilitate these programs. Universities are too theoretically orientated (and they should be), and RTO's deny many highly talented students, who do not come from economically affluent backgrounds, the opportunity to become part of the industry because of their commercial fee structure.

As stated earlier, I have worked in no less than 10 prominent RTO's around Sydney: some of the most advertised, and "reputable" private colleges within the NSW. I have seen everything from inadequate course structures, to lax management, to corrupt work practices. There are many examples I could provide: but in a nutshell, I'll say, that money should not determine whether a student passes or fails, and managers should not dictate the content of courses when they know nothing about the industries those courses facilitate, and teachers should not be manipulated based on inadequate student performances.

I strongly urge the government to include in its vision for our nation, a highly innovative skill-based workforce that competes on a world stage; where our technological and creative innovation, is regarded as second to none. Fund technological and creative endeavour to this end, and the country shall become inestimably richer for it.

Submitted by

Paul Bajada of Chippendale

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Martin Brown, of beaudesert make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 4214.

I did an apprenticeship in 1990 as a plumber and drainer, my studies at TAFE was during my apprenticeship and it was the best learning experience of my life, before TAFE i did training at some private provider and it was all about the money not the learning, the teachers at TAFE cared if i was struggling with a subject and took the time to help me which did not happen at the other private provider, they also had a vast amount of knowledge which help me become the tradesman i am now. Without TAFE Im sure I would not have the level of skill required to do my job efficiently and productively.

The teacher are from industry and in most cases have run there own business, most

would be in a management role or at least a supervisors role if they weren't teaching, most would earn more in industry. My teacher were current with the latest procedure and standards, who were changeling me to learn at every step.

TAFE teachers and TAFE guided me in to the person I am today

NO

YES you can do a on year TAFE course in 2 -3 weeks at a private provider.

More TAFE's are worried about money than student outcomes
TAFE has a moto Everyone is a winner as long as they pay

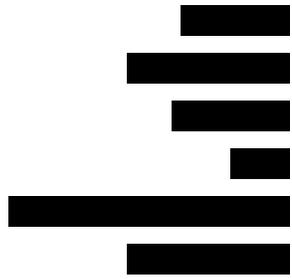
Materials and equipment are below standard

Keep TAFE as it is and keep teachers conditions

Submitted by

Martin Brown of beaudesert

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Dov Hirst, of Moorooka make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Storeman, in the postcode of 4172.

TAFE was an integral part of me completing my trade (Bookbinding) over twenty years ago. My son has recently completed an apprenticeship (Butcher), where none of the training was provided by TAFE, and the comparison was poor to say the least.

TAFE gives apprentices exposure to apprentices and work practices away from their own place of employment. TAFE provides more thorough training and produces **BETTER TRADESMEN.**

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Private training providers (in my experience) are sloppy, not committed to helping

apprentices complete their time properly and like to assess students with "tick and flick" method.

...The TAFE I attended is completely gone. God only knows how apprentices are successfully completing their time now.

As someone who has put many apprentices through their practical training over the years, it's been obvious to me that the Govt has allowed the TAFE system to run into the ground.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦!

This country needs SKILLED tradesmen to keep industry and manufacturing ticking over. The current system is producing poorly trained substitutes and our economy will suffer in the long term.

Submitted by

Dov Hirst of Moorooka

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Suzanne Mammone, of TARRAWANNA make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a primary teacher, in the postcode of 2500.

I went to TAFE after school and did a receptionist course which helped me get a job in banking. I love learning and I did many courses in cookery to give myself skills in cooking for my family. I did a small business course which helped me step up to a management role in my job. My son left school and managed to secure a plumbing apprenticeship. We have had to help him financially to survive as the job he secured is in Northern Sydney as there aren't any apprenticeships in the Illawarra. He is struggling on the wages he is paid but is loving his job and the training he is getting at North Sydney TAFE. He tried Uni and it wasn't for him as he is a very practical learner and couldn't take in the information presented orally. He needs to be shown how to do something and he learns it,

Many people are clever in practical ways and need the style of teaching and learning presented at TAFE. We need all types of people to feel good about learning and not think Uni is the only way. The changes proposed to Uni fees will make it impossible for disadvantaged people to gain skills for employment.

I would never have entered University after school. I achieved some qualifications through TAFE and worked and after a number of years achieved a degree at University with distinction in Primary Education. I wouldn't have been able to do that straight out of school. I failed my HSC as I wasn't mature enough to get my act together with study like so many people. Later on I excelled at University. We need a well resourced and reasonably priced TAFE system to help people achieve a Higher Education. Our son failed at University and gained an apprenticeship and is doing very well at TAFE.

I am concerned about the increase in TAFE fees. Apprentices can't afford high fees!. Our sons apprenticeship is plumbing and can take seven years to cover all the different aspects of plumbing. The fees to gain full registration to operate a plumbing business require a final years study that is rumoured to be going to cost \$15000, that is ridiculous!

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE system remains well resourced and affordable to help address the shortage of tradespeople we have in Australia. Australians will have to pay an awful lot to have any trade work done if this shortage

continues. Another option might be to allow tradespeople to emigrate to Australia a very sad situation for our young Australians.

Many people do not learn in a lecture situation that is typically used at Universities. Many people cannot easily write essays yet they learn very well in a practical setting. How can we have a Smart Australia if we disregard a large part of the population that are intelligent in various ways but are not suited to a University setting or may be at a later stage given some time to mature.

Submitted by

Suzanne Mammone of TARRAWANNA

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Kristiane D'Souza, of Ashwood make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a mum, in the postcode of 3147.

I know many young people who were quite despondent at their VCE results, thinking that they were not going to get anywhere but TAFE in the end proved to be a great pathway for most of them. For example one boy I know used TAFE as a pathway to get into uni discovered whilst doing his computer IT course that in fact he did not like IT but doing this TAFE course gave him that qualification and led to him being able to get into Swinburne University and he is now a pilot with Cathway Pacific. I especially feel for the young people I know who are not academic and not well off but remarkable in their ability to build, fix cars, etc who will lose this incredible opportunity if TAFE becomes too expensive and unaccessible or non-existent. I am totally devastated at what the government is doing to TAFE

We will not have enough of our own Australian young learning skills that we as a community need. We will not be able to get plumber, electrician, carpenters etc and those that are available will be super expensive. We will probably start importing skills labour whilst our Australians work force is under-skilled and unemployed. We should be looking after our own.

See item 2.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Unable to give examples but have heard of students having problems with the standard of some private collage courses - some even went broke after taking a lot of money that the students could not afford to lose.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need to ensure that our young have the best opportunity to develop skills and to be able to use TAFE as a stepping stone. We do not want increase in crime and the disenfranchised. We do not want high unemployment whilst sourcing workers from overseas. We should be a well educated country giving our own opportunities for a good job and a good life. We do not want to end up being the trash in our region.

Submitted by

Kristiane D'Souza of Ashwood

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Daryl D'Souza, of Ashwood make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a lecturer, in the postcode of 3001.

As an educator at RMIT University in the Higher Education section I've seen many TAFE students articulate into degrees in which I teach in. Many of these students achieved what they would not have without RMIT's dual sector status, that is, with its TAFE or VET section. Several of these students also attained postgraduate qualifications, some even going on to get their PhDs. TAFE played an integral role in building that all important bridge in their educational journeys, and for the benefit of Australia. For those who chose to exit from TAFE they too succeeded, though my experiences with this cohort is limited to family and friends.

Degrees prepare students to be able to adapt to changes in the workforce through their conceptual understanding of relevant course material. TAFE plays a complementary

role by allowing students who are not ready for tertiary education (for whatever reason) to immerse themselves into skills. A properly organised TAFE course gives students time, essential for students at this level, and far more so than than the fast track provided these days in the private sector.

The skills taught at TAFE are relevant to many industries including many in so called "white collar" contexts. In such contexts the skills are not found in degree graduates, who learn them more on the job than at university, and rightly so. University degrees focus not just on job readiness, they shouldn't. They educate students for a different, yet important, kind of job readiness, in addition to the values around "learning to learn" to enable students to become thinkers.

As such, students from TAFE who choose to exit upon completion bring exclusively smart contributions in terms of important and relevant skills and this contributes to a strong Australian workforce.

I'm a parent of two boys. They were fortunate that they gained the scores to access university directly. However, I saw several of their friends who were not so fortunate, in most case due to no fault of their own (disadvantage, single parent homes, troubled homes were just some factors that prevented them direct access to universities) go via TAFE and eventually to university. I have personally seen some of these enter the workforce as university graduates or indeed with strong skills that allowed them to contribute to the economy and to have fulfilling lives.

I do not live in a regional area but as an educator I have met students from regional areas who benefited from TAFE.

No I do not have first hand experiences with private colleges but I've read much media

reporting about the compromises made in the private sector.

Yes.

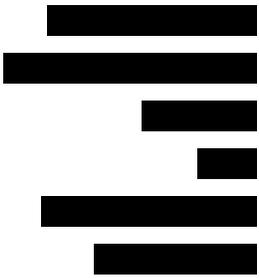
At my university the cuts have had a significant impact in dollar terms and in terms of workload allocations, leading to the potential for reduced quality. This is particularly alarming in professions such as health where well-trained para-professional staff are essential.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because of the many reasons already provided above.

Submitted by

Daryl D'Souza of Ashwood

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, alexander barclay, of parkwood make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a RETIREE, in the postcode of 6147.

Left school at 16. Spent 2 years in merchant navy. Worked in laboratory studying Chemistry for 4 years in UK obtaining a HNC by day release. A much more satisfying process than the current University and work experience. Came to Australia in 1981 and in 1986 decided a career change was needed. Attended Tafe for 4 years night school obtaining a Diploma in Environmental Health. This was a harder route to a similar qualification but more suited as I was changing careers. These qualifications are now degree only and for the last 24 years I have met and supervised many students on work experience and new graduates. I am strongly of the opinion that the more practical TAFE type education especially if combined with lots of work experience produces workers with better skills and not infatuated by the need to get promotion every 2 or 3 years.

My move to Environmental Health was facilitated by the easy availability and low cost of TAFE. Whilst it is theoretically possible to complete a degree part time the pressure of a young family needing fed and clothed would have made it very difficult.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means opportunity

Many private colleges have sprung up in Perth often teaching English and catering skills mainly to overseas students trying to find back door entry to Australia. The standards witnessed in them and by their students were questionable. Changes to government policy a few years ago did halt the spread of these.

As my profession is now degree only entry I have little current knowledge of the system. I have heard that the requirements of competency based programmes are very hard to meet in an environment where the TAFES cannot afford the required equipment.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because they provide or should provide the opportunity for non academic, late developers and people seeking career changes to obtain suitable training and qualifications. Such people can then help to improve Australian Industry with the committed and well skilled staff needed to compete in the international fields necessary in the modern world.

Submitted by

Alexander Barclay of Parkwood

Monday 15th of April 2013

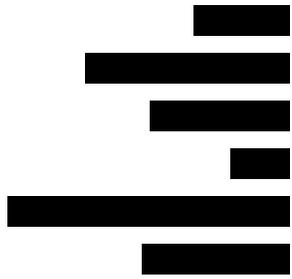


Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Peter Butler, of Balgownie make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I have benefited from TAFE training at trade and associate diploma level and have been able to stay employed for over 30 years thanks to that training. TAFE is essential to the economy, training tradespeople, accountants, admin staff and not to forget students of the arts, engineers and so many more. There is no point implementing the Gonski reforms to fund schools if there are no TAFEs and Unis to go to afterwards. Please fund them adequately.

Submitted by
Peter Butler of Balgownie
Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Ian Dick, of East Ballina make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Accountant, in the postcode of 2478.

I went to TAFE straight from high school, when I really did not know what my future held. I finished my Accounting Certificate at Sydney TAFE and went on to utilise the training I received to earn promotions and work my way around the State Government. I find that governments of all stripes cutting funding and then whinging about the skills shortages that face Australia, as very cynical and short sighted. Instead, more funds need to be pumped into the vocational courses on offer, especially those that are in high demand throughout the economy at present. Surely it cannot be that hard to predict what skills are required and prepare more teachers for those courses.

I am a perfect example, but I am sure there are hundreds of thousands of others. People that did their training at TAFE come out with the practical skills that employers

are after - they can actually DO the job required, rather than just know all the theory.

I went to TAFE straight from high school, when I really did not know what my future held. I finished my Accounting Certificate at Sydney TAFE and went on to utilise the training I received to earn promotions and work my way around the State Government. Without that training, I shudder to think where I would have ended up.

Being a resident of a relatively small coastal town, with a local TAFE, I am concerned that if my 2 children do not want to go to university, that the essential courses teaching them the skills that employers are after may not be available.

This is a concern to me. Skills training should not be offered by some of the fly by night colleges that offer training. Training should be of a certain standard and not diluted by the supposed "better value for money" that these private colleges purport to offer.

The number of courses and staff have all been reduced.

The number of courses has been reduced, and the increase in course fees has meant that those who cannot afford it but need the training the most, cannot afford it. It is a vicious circle.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it offers a pathway for some people to gain their first qualifications, which in then prepares them for a job for the future. If TAFE is too expensive or is not available to them, then people fall through the cracks and it is made more difficult for them to reach their potential.

Submitted by

Ian Dick of East Ballina

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Caitlin Crowley, of northcote make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a TAFE teacher, in the postcode of 3070.

In the late 1980s when I completed my HSC, despite receiving good marks and university offers, I chose to study travel and tourism at Box Hill TAFE. I made this decision because I wanted my study to lead me directly into a job. I wanted a vocational education and the TAFE style suited me. I liked the small group classes, I liked the way that every assessment task related directly to the work I would be doing in the future, I liked the fact that my teachers all came from industry. There was a strong sense of community and lots of support and the members of the teaching department understood my strengths and hooked me up with my first job in tourism. Over the last twenty-five years I have studied at three different TAFE colleges in Victoria, upskilling and retraining in areas as required. Clearly I believe in the system and that is why I now teach the same qualification I undertook when I was a school

leaver. But for how much longer?

Tourism can be studied at university but itâ€™s a totally different experience. When our students graduate they can calculate complex airfares, are familiar with travel industry codes, can operate the industry-specific reservations system and the legal and ethical needs of the industry. Theyâ€™ve studied business documentation, customer service and their geography is top notch. They donâ€™t just sit in a class room â€“ theyâ€™re out and about working at high-profile events, volunteering at and they have skills, experience, exposure to industry â€“ employers can be confident they are getting quality graduates. A lot has changed in the travel and tourism industry over the last 25 years, and the training reflects that, but the spirit and focus of TAFE remains as strong and as meaningful as it was for me all those years ago.

It is amazing to be part of a TAFE and see the life-changing opportunities it provides. I have seen students who dropped out of school at 16, spent 4 years working at Red Rooster, return to study and turn their lives around - moving on to further study and more employment opportunities.

I do not live in a regional area but I am aware of the fact that many regional TAFEs have cut their tourism courses - areas that desperately need a tourism industry to survive.

Some of my full time tourism students in 2012 enrolled in what they thought was a Responsible Service of Alcohol Certificate. They were paid \$150 each to attend 6 weekly sessions of 4 hours each in a function room at the Cross Keys Hotel. They were provided with workbooks complete with the answers in them. They undertook ALL units to qualify them for a Cert III in Hospitality except for ONE important unit - the one that requires them to actually work hands-on in a hospitality environment (which

coincidentally doesn't attract any government funding). In one four hour session alone these students studied coffee making and advanced coffee making - during this process they did not make one coffee. This was taught to them verbally with the aid of a whiteboard! Despite making formal complaints to the TAFE Association - this practice was not illegal.

Our tourism fees have tripled. Some students are unable to finish their studies as they have been unable to afford their fees this year.

. I know it's hard to comprehend, when you've had the benefit of being brought up in a middle class Australia, surrounded by people who value education to fully comprehend the impact TAFE has. Sometimes when you teach a person how to scrub up for work, to take responsibility for , to make a perfect espresso and to serve from the left and take from the right " sometimes that's enough to change someone's life. There's so much more, the teamwork, the ability to finish something for the first time " to pass and graduate well. The realisation that you are good at something.

I've seen first hand that TAFE can change lives but now for the first time in my life I am seeing people walk in our doors wanting to study and then walk out again because they can't afford it. These TAFE cuts crush dreams - not just for students, not just for staff but for entire communities.

Submitted by

Caitlin Crowley of northcote

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Nikolee Ansell, of Black Mountain make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a student, in the postcode of 4563.

I have been to both Uni and TAFE and feel incredibly grateful for the training opportunities this has given. TAFE plays an integral part of the tertiary education opportunities for people. Many do not have the confidence, support or background to go straight to uni and nor is uni appropriate for all subjects. TAFE is vital and needs to stay.

TAFE has an excellent history for the provision of trades and technical training. The skills taught are generally very relevant in making students employable.

For retraining later in life, TAFE often provides quick courses to get people re-skilled and back in the workforce. Traditionally TAFE has been much cheaper than Uni and

therefore more accessible particularly for those on limited incomes, with dependants, or with limited family support. I know lots of people who have retrained through TAFE.

This is a very low socio-economic regional area with very limited job opportunities unless you are in the service or hospitality industries. There is university access through 2 local campuses. For me these options are 30 and 45km distant. There is also a TAFE campus 30 km distant.

Not locally.

Not yet.

I am not sure but am nonetheless concerned. I am also very concerned about the proposed amount of the Gonski funding being drawn from Tertiary funding.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need to retain the sophistication of the current choices. Choice is important.

Submitted by

Nikolee Ansell of Black Mountain

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Felicity Crombach, of Narraweena make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a [REDACTED], in the postcode of 2099.

When I needed to change my career I was very glad to take a course in computers at TAFE. This lead to certificate 3 in information technology. Later my work changed again and I successfully completed a public relations certificate, followed by a diploma.

TAFE qualifications are well known and respected. Not only do they let prospective employers know what you have learned but also they are taught by those who work in the industry. Australia needs qualified trades people and TAFE supplies them.

I can attest to the usefulness of TAFE qualifications and how well received they are by employers. I have been in paid employment for many years, although now retired, and put my success down to having TAFE qualifications.

Following budget cuts there are fewer courses on offer and often there is a need to travel to the city late at night. This is hard for those of us with families to care for but also quite dangerous for young school leavers especially when they live far from the bus route.

My experience with the state government's cuts on TAFE have been to see the course I was taking moved to the city from my local TAFE. Also cutting of modules which meant looking for a TAFE that would run it and having to wait until the next one started.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because Australia needs a well qualified work force and also Australians need the qualifications to be able to find work. To keep people off welfare and in the workforce we need TAFE.

Submitted by

Felicity Crombach of Narraweena

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, lance fenner, of dee why make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a bus driver, in the postcode of 2099.

i was trained in tafe as and apprentice chef,without this training over 4 yrs as it was back then,not 6 months,i would have not gained the skills i required to further my experience.

tafe ,would use people whom had gained skills in there specific trades,over many years, to teach and train apprentices the skills they needed to work safely and work correctly within there specified trade.only a person with many years experience can pass on skilss ,not knowledge from a book

not reall ,as a chef ,in my last years of this job,26 years spent in the trade i watch the industry flooded with under skilled foreign workers only wanting residency.. so the

failure to employ the youth of australia and not residency hunters has destroyed tafe.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

absolutely,,hospitality has been destroyed,, dirty ,indian chefs,, training to get residency only,no skills,no hygiene ,and ready to work for minimal wages to get residency,, plenty of people i know paid thousand to do courses ,get jobs in restaurants just to get residency,,causing the real chefs to say bugger you and the government

my friend is a painter,, 30yrs experience,,teaches at tafe.said they are cutting trainee times just to fast track skills,,several chef teaches have had their hours cut

cant say ,,

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦

Submitted by

lance fenner of dee why

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Christina Bella Rodrigues, of Black Forest make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a TRT, in the postcode of 5035.

I've completed the Certificate IV in TESOL lately at the city campus tafe. I'm glad I've got an Australian certificate now and feel more confident and I guess I've acquired some exposure.

Tafe has to go on because many people do get exposure and training in various fields. tafe helps them to gain practice and confidence. It's also a place where migrants have a social settings, meeting people and sharing experiences and gaining knowledge and footing for better experiences out there in the employment arena.

After I attended Tafe, I've been able to volunteer as a teacher helper at the tafe and also get into the tafe TRT list. Nobody out there in the public system wanted me even

as a volunteer. They all kept saying they had almost 100 people coming in for TRT and volunteering. It was a cold shoulder. They also asked me if I had Australian experience/Australian certificates. Tafe did it for me.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means it is the ultimate choice for all. Tafe has to go on. If Tafe ceases to exist, life will stop for many migrants and school drop outs people who need to fill up gaps to get employment. Australia will not be able to reach up there if tafe stops. Tafe is like oxygen to us people out here.

Yes, other institutions charge more tuition fees and give poor quality services. I was supposed to join unisa but gave up after having attended the interview and paid the \$50 application fee, because I wasn't impressed at all.

If budgets are cut for educational institutions every section of the business world in Australia will crumble and growth will stop. This is definitely a suicidal move.

All sorts of reduction and deduction will cause crowded classes of students of different levels and unsatisfactory learners. Quality will come down and hence production will be poor.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is the breath of the migrant and youth community that is responsible for the making and breaking of Australia

Submitted by

Christina Bella Rodrigues of Black Forest

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Alison Rochford, of Birchgrove make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a TAFE teacher, in the postcode of 2041.

I have taught English as a second language in the TAFE sector for over 15 years, working in face-to-face colleges and distance education. Over these years I have seen many TAFE students gain valuable language skills and confidence to enable them to find work and use their language skills effectively.

The focus of many migrants in TAFE is to improve their communication skills in English. Some of them start with low level English skills and with the assistance of subsidised English courses they can work their way up and achieve high level English skills and participate in the Australian workplace Their contributions would not be possible without the existence of TAFE and the subsidies provided to TAFE by government programs.

I have taught many young migrant women who were able to stay at home looking after their children and through the support of government funded programs to job seekers (eg. LLNP), they could access distance English language courses at home and plan their entry or return to the workforce, or go on to tertiary study. I have also taught other older students who are studying TAFE English language courses and use them as a means to be able to communicate with their children so they do not feel cut off or marginalised.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means a lot to people in regional or remote areas where private providers are not established.

At WSI OTEN we have ex-students who have studied English courses with private colleges and come back to us as they complain of poor teaching standards, large class sizes and low quality courses.

Budget cuts have led to cuts in courses and teachers' hours, larger class sizes, teachers' workloads increasing when teachers leave and are not replaced and of course increases in student fees.

Teachers feel the extra stress related to an increased workload. Students feel the stress of increased fees and a lack of study support.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is such a vital part of our society, giving opportunities to students from different backgrounds and cultures and helping them to participate actively in the Australian workplace and their community.

Submitted by

Alison Rochford of Birchgrove

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Jack Ladd, of Plympton make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

Across Australia TAFE provides a world class education to those who may not be able to afford training in private institutions.

To allow access to only those with the privilege of money is denying the country of potentially skilled and smart workers.

TAFE provides an environment in which students learn together, enabling a diverse and adaptive learning experience.

TAFE is an investment in Australia's future and provides the workforce with exceptional contributors.

As a student in the Bachelor of Visual Arts studying at the AC Arts campus in Adelaide

city I have gained an exceptional education that i believe will train me for my creative and professional future. The Arts are an intrinsic part of our societies and contribute not only to the creative elements of industry but act as a catalyst for education and development. Without creative thought and process how can we possibly ever evolve our technologies and their respective industries.

Invest in TAFE !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Submitted by

Jack Ladd of Plympton

Monday 15th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Ruby Brooks Ladd, of Hilton make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

Tafe has given me a qualification in fabric construction, one that has led me to great industry experiences. I continued my studies at Uni but remember Tafe as being a great learning experience and a hands-on, practical course. Now my brother studies Visual Arts at Tafe in Adelaide and he loves it, he and his friends are amazingly creative and are creating great things around the city. I can't understand why governments' cut the colourful, inclusive, atmospheric, progressive elements within their cities, then wonder why nobody wants to move there, or why all creative people feel the need to leave.

Tafe, while being primarily a place to gain skills is also a site for creative and prosperous projects.

SUPPORT KNOWLEDGE. SUPPORT TAFE. Improve tafe so that it can be the best it can be, so that people can be the best they can be.

Submitted by

Ruby Brooks Ladd of Hilton

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, The Australian Egyptian Council Forum , of Bankstown make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

The Australian Egyptian Council Forum (AECF), inc. working with the Egyptian and Sudanese communities in NSW would like to submit their observation on the development occurring in TAFENSW.

1. AECF believes that TAFE is and should be the principal provider and contributor to a smart and strong Australian workforce, its efforts and input is beyond any doubt, and has various forms:
 - a. Open entry to training, retraining and further training according to Industry and community needs
 - b. The training provision is not limited to know how but to know why
 - c. The training takes the personal and industry skills.

2. TAFE has given migrants and refugees appropriate training opportunities and a

second chance to enter the workforce utilising their own skills through the Multicultural Education program.

a. The bridging and refresher courses for people with overseas skills and qualifications.

b. These courses combined with communication and orientation to Australian work practice help migrants and refugees to utilise their skills and overseas qualifications and training.

c. The current reduction in Multicultural education coordinators and their programs has affected many overseas-trained professional from accelerating the employment pathway.

3. We noticed the decline of the Multicultural Education Program and services offered by TAFE and in particular TAFENSW Sydney Institute. This successful program is being diminished and the Multicultural Education coordinators, who are behind this successful model, are being deleted and funding for this program is cut.

4. It is also noticed that TAFE is overweighted with managers and executive with limited support to teachers and head teachers. Sydney Institute has more executives and managers than the entire previous department of technical and further education.

5. TAFE should be maintained as a public education and training. The current competition policy of both state and federal government has lead to TAFE Institutes to reduce their education supporting staff and hence reduced the quality of education and training, only to be able to compete with private providers who are interested only in maximising their profit; some examples reported to us from people's experience with commercial training companies.

a. Number of students in the class up to 75

b. The teachers discuss the lesson including the test and then ask the students to enter the answers on the computer.

c. There is no guarantee of the quality of graduates.

d. Work experiences are not always in the same field as the training.

6. The competition policy has increased the number of bureaucracy and red tape in managing the taxpayer money dedication to training and opened the way for possible corruption in the allocation of fund to private and commercial providers

7. We urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well funded because of such essential and vital role in the Australian work force development and ensuring access and equity

Submitted by

The Australian Egyptian Council Forum of Bankstown

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Ian McCallum, of The Patch make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Trade Assistant, in the postcode of 3792.

I attended some TAFE training in an effort to diversify and gain current information about topics that were ancillary to my core full time career. TAFE was slow but the most affordable option to obtaining recognised qualifications when you are already working full time in another direction.

Studying with others who were from different disciplines provided a rich and interesting experience increasing the circle of education in a unique way.

TAFE is a backstop for continuous learning and providing the springboard for many to be able to change their employment direction increasing workplace satisfaction and satisfying ambition.

I know that TAFE provided a career for one young student at a time when life was confusing and choosing a vocation was not on the list of priorities.

I live at the edge of a metro area where it is difficult for young people to travel to TAFE not because of distance but poorly timetabled, indirect public transport. Going to TAFE may provide opportunities but only if you can get there.

I have noticed a loss of hope in local youth at the attacks made on the viability of TAFE.

I don't know about the admin problems of TAFE but I know the ambition of local youth has taken a dive.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded with subjects and programs that are affordable and applicable to all Victorians, because not everyone is suited to or wants to progress through Tertiary education. I have grandchildren and I want to see that they have life long education that suits them when and where they need it.

In todays increasingly regulated and technological workplace people need a system like TAFE to be able to upgrade, refresh or provide new learning and accreditation for their career choice.

Submitted by

Ian McCallum of The Patch

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Carrienne Wilton-Howarth, of Muswellbrook make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a CLERK, in the postcode of 2333.

For the last 30 years I have been attending TAFE, to better myself and to gain employable skills. With the current and proposed changes I will never be able to better myself again. Being the only wage earner in my house hold this is a very scary reality for me, if I cannot afford to keep my skills up-to-date and I may not be employable in the future.

I have gained valuable skills during my years of study at TAFE that have kept me employed. Without these courses my earning ability would have been very different to what I currently earn now.

TAFE has given me the greatest skills that have kept me employed for 30 years.

Living in the country has meant that TAFE is our only face to face option for higher education. Our local TAFE is so important, without it or with radical funding cuts it will be unaffordable for a lot of people, especially residents with low incomes. Whilst I was growing up university study was not accessible for a lot of people but TAFE was always a viable option.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because EDUCATION is the most important gift we can give to our children, it needs to be accessible to everyone. It needs to be affordable and accessible at all costs, without skilled workers GOD help our country. What is happening to our TAFE system is unbelievable and to me is a step backwards, and one that will never be able to be fixed. Please think about the people less able to attend university that need an affordable TAFE system, everyone deserves to be educated. A Country is only as good as its Education System, limiting education prospects for its people seems to be a very backward step.

Submitted by

Carrienne Wilton-Howarth of Muswellbrook

Monday 15th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Timothy Williams, of Blackheath make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Buisness Owner, in the postcode of 2785.

I spent two years training at Blue Mountains TAFE completing a Cert III & IV in Outdoor Recreation. Since finishing the course I have been fully employed with more work offers than I can accept. The course changed my life dramatically. I recently started my own adventure tour business which is taking off quickly. The TAFE training provided to me was world class and the teachers were more professional than any I have ever come accross.

TAFE is vital in ensuring we have a skilled work force. In the Outdoor Recreation industry we have had over 200% employment growth in the last decade. Over the same period the number of people trained did not keeping up with demand. It is possible that the industry could have sustained 300% jobs growth over the same

period had more staff been available. A shortage of trained staff is restricting growth in the industry.

Quality training ensures greater public and employee safety, which is crucial in my industry. We cannot afford incidents like the Interlaken canyoning tragedy in this country.

Of the 15 students in my TAFE Class all 15 said the course changed their life. It gave all of us new skills, amazing contacts within industry, practical experience and employment in a field we love.

We got so much out of our course because the course gave us the widest range of skill sets available through any training provider in Australia at a very affordable price. Plus our teachers were the most experienced in the industry. They had a focus on students wellbeing and always worked on ways to improve course delivery.

As far as I know the only RTO's in the local government area I call home is TAFE.

In the outdoor recreation industry there are a number of private RTO's offering training. I am not aware of what many of them offer. I was recently advised by a current TAFE student that a business called Above & Below is offering skill areas in Outdoor Recreation with as little as one day of training and assessment. Above & Below provides a training manual and students do all the learning themselves. For a course which would normally take 10 or more days the students are assessed in one day. The way the students are assessed is also inferior.

There have been major increases in course costs as well as course cut backs. The Cert IV Outdoor Recreation Course is now only available on a fee for service basis,

which means it is unlikely to run as the cost is likely to be \$14000 per student (no fee help is available).

Cert III outdoor recreation students previously had the chance to complete 5 or 6 skill areas under a standard enrolment. Now they only have access to two skill areas. If they wish to do extra skill areas (which they must if they want regular work) the cost is approximately \$3000 for a single skill area.

This is leading to a dramatic reduction in the number of qualified staff available to industry. The industry is already under staffed as it is.

The main impact of the cuts has been an almost instant increase in staff shortages within the industry. Most companies are turning away customers regularly because they are under staffed.

There has been a marked reduction in enrolments in Outdoor Recreation at my local TAFE.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded. Without funding the outdoor recreation industry is doomed to be left with few available employees and as a result an inability to satisfy the needs of customers. The lack of well trained staff may lead to safety issues given the high risk nature of the industry.

Submitted by

Timothy Williams of Blackheath

Tuesday 16th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Jose Alvarado, of Hillsdale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Correctional Officer, in the postcode of 2036.

I am a proud migrant that make my Country Australia from the 80ths to today, and what TAFE mean to me is that provided a strong foundation for my working life in this country.

Because it closes the gap between the high and the low marks needed to prepare for the working life, with trades and industrial expertise not every one can have axes to universities.

The obvious reasons are clear when students live school due to personal or academic issues, TAFE is there to fill the educational gap and usually become success histories during their working life.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

The difference off becoming entrepreneurial or probably a very low pay worker.

Yes I have, and is probably due to low educational standards where profit driven educational programs do not meet the current level of expertise needed to be successful on the medium to long term.

TAFE has been put some how on the low scale and is not a good sign in a country that equality in education should be priority.

Yes there is no secret that if there is no money the level of services and the quality of educational programs will decrease as well.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because in a country where currently there is a high debate regarding shortage of skills, and even considering the use of foreign skilled work force, to cover for local demand it is obvious that we need to train our own people so they can have meaningful input to their and our prosperity. and also will be politically smart.

Submitted by

Jose Alvarado of Hillsdale

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, GLYN WILLIAMS, of CARINGBAH make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE ENGINEER, in the postcode of 2229.

I'm an older person now but it played a large part in my life when my marriage split up some 6 years ago. I went back to T.A.F.E. to complete a Cert IV in Human Resources to give me life some focus and keep myself away from drowning my sorrows every night. I enjoyed it in a sadistic way. It is also a great way for school leavers to get specific training in their chosen vocation

Because it is skills specific in relationship to what job you are after. I went on to complete year 6 at high school (year 12 now) and there was not training to set you up to enter the workforce. In short it was a waste of time.

Cannot give any specific examples

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

N/A

N/A

N/A

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need to compete on the world stage as a smart and energised economy as we can no longer compete in the manufacturing of low level technology products

Submitted by

GLYN WILLIAMS of CARINGBAH

Tuesday 16th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Moira Kirkwood, of COLEDALE make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2515.

I did an Advanced Dip in Fine Art at West Wollongong TAFE. It was a life-changing and life-enhancing experience for me. Since then I've become a professional visual artist and gone on to further tertiary study in the field, leading me to my current occupation. I also help run a Gallery space in Wollongong. I recognise now how critical the arts are to help people find their expression and some sense of meaning.

Fine Arts training at TAFE helps you to think laterally; to accept criticism; to develop tenacity and self-belief; to tap into the poetic side of our nature. All these qualities are essential to negotiating the world.

I teach HSC Visual Art at Gynea TAFE. This is the last year the HSC is being offered

here. This is a severe hardship on the students who use this service.

I know several people who have been encouraged off a path towards suicide and self-harm through the practice of art available at TAFE. These were not people destined for Uni. A Uni course would not have helped them.

I live in Wollongong. Already the cuts to visual arts courses in TAFE have had devastating effects. The staff of these courses are all artists themselves and are now unable to find work or else a working a handful of hours. This means their own practice is severely compromised.

Everything has a knock-on effect. Because both student and staff numbers are decimated at West Wollongong TAFE, it looks like neither group will be able to afford to hold their annual exhibitions at the Community Gallery I help run. This means we'll have trouble paying the rent, and students will be denied the opportunity to exhibit in a professional space.

There will be many people who just can't get into the TAFE system now. Many of these people will fall by the wayside. Younger people especially those not academically inclined, will be further marginalised.

These cuts to TAFE are so short-sighted it takes my breath away. The Government should hang its head in shame at the way this sector is being attacked. So much for 'clever country'.

Submitted by

Moira Kirkwood of COLEDALE

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Peter Hofstetter, of Mitchelton make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I'm 54 year old Building Certifier. I went to Ithaca TAFE in the late '80's and finished in the early '90's studying the Associate Diploma of Building. I was working as a carpenter at the time and that was the minimum qualification required to become a building surveyor with Council. The course took 5 years to complete and gave me a fantastic grounding in the building industry. I completed the course and got a job with Brisbane City Council and I've been a building surveyor ever since. It's a great job.

I've had to upgrade my qualifications and have since done two post grad courses at Uni. From these courses I got a piece of paper that was "academically" more valuable than the Associate Diploma but neither of them taught me anything as practical and useful as the knowledge that I received from TAFE. I would not be as competent as I am without the lessons learned from the teachers at TAFE. The information was very practical and I still explain construction issues using examples that were given in class.

It was a tremendous education and it would be a great loss if it were to disappear.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Hofstetter

Submitted by

Peter Hofstetter of Mitchelton

Tuesday 16th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, ed hewitt, of midvale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a elrctrician, in the postcode of 6056.

After moving to Australia partially qualified, tafe allowed me to gain. My full qualification.

All trade apprenticeships require a certain amount of theory study, and an environment where practical skills can be learned. Without this there is no control over the quality of the tradespeople in the workforce. Thus in future trades would need to be imported from overseas.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because as previously stated it guarantees a minimum standard of qualified tradesperson in an establishment that is generally affordable and accessible to all.

Submitted by

ed hewitt of midvale

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Frank ter Meulen, of Helensburgh make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a handyman, in the postcode of NSW 2508.

After being in a work related accident last year where I temporarily lost the functions in my right hand, I decided to retrain myself and do a builders course at TAFE, so that I would be able to fulfill a more managerial role in my work, where I won't have to use my hand as much.

I believe that TAFE is very accessible for everyone from all background and ages, and it's much more focused to prepare it's students practically for the workforce out there, as opposed to university for example.

I believe that I am a very good example of someone who's been offered a second change in life because of TAFE (see above).

Living about 50min from the city, I had different option of further education to choose from.

I have not noticed an increase in poorly regulated private colleges, as I never considered them as an option, my first choice was to go to TAFE because of their good reputation

I've noticed the budget cuts at the TAFE that I'm attending (Ultimo) in enormous student fees increases, and in the cuts of different subjects. For example our course is now 6 months instead of 1 year with the same amount of hours per week.

I believe that the state government TAFE cuts have made TAFE courses less accessible, due to increased fees, and they have reduced the quality significantly, due to reduction of the number of subjects

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because a very important part of Australia's economy (and future) is based on good accessible education.

Submitted by

Frank ter Meulen of Helensburgh

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Chris Wilkinson, of Forest Lake make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a forklift driver, in the postcode of 4078.

I spent a lot of time working different jobs as I left school early on one of these jobs I met a boy 14 left school not much education, numeracy and writing limited but very smart at fixing motors, waterpumps, making things, woodwork as we worked together for a few years and travelled, he decided he would like to be an apprentice sparky he had no trouble doing the practical work, but the assignments gave him a lot of trouble. Without TAFE he would have been lost and gone back to odd jobs but with a bit of help he is now an A grade sparky, An asset to the Australian public a success to how a person from a broken home who left school early can make a huge difference with a little help from TAFE,

With TAFE we have a way of helping youth get apprenticeships doing TAFE courses to get

qualified for various roles throughout our communities. building, engineering, farming, without this the future for our kids is grim as all the skilled labour will come from overseas and they will be at the bottom end of the chain. Help our kids help the country lets take control of our own destiny dont make us slaves to overseas markets

Young Marc now a qualified A grade sparky with the world at his feet left school at 14 no direction nowhere to live Tafe made a huge difference

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...heaps for country kids as technology changes so quick they need somewhere that easy to access to further their skills

private sector seems to be more about money profits not education of those that need it

if cuts continue i will need to move overseas as this will be the only way to get a decent job in Australia

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it's not about this generation it's about the next 10 generations lets not lose all the knowledge of all the people we have here now we need to keep the old ways as well as learn the new we cant do this when we cut the only way some people can learn about this as time goes on we will have more skilled people to teach their kids and so DONT be short sighted and help the future of all Australians

Submitted by

chris wilkinson of forest lake

Tuesday 16th of April 2013



Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, nezam alizaade, of cherrybrook make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

If anything, Tafe needs more support from the government .

Submitted by

nezam alizaade of cherrybrook

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Pat Drummond, of Bulli make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

Australian Infants, Primary and Secondary Government schools provide quality education for all. Australian universities provide quality education for a selected few. TAFE education has in the past offered continuing education, mainly for the workplace, for many. TAFE students come from a lower economic group in our society, are refugees, older students, those seeking the opportunity for a new start in life, students with a wide range of special needs due to a wide range of disabilities and those seeking qualifications for a job which only TAFE can offer.

Changes now suggested in the TAFE system will not provide in the future the opportunities to such a wide variety of students which it has so proudly provided in the past.

My direct experience has been as a teacher of the Deaf. With budget cuts, changes to courses and privatisation Deaf students will be denied access to training for a job. They will be a drain on the government as they will need a disability pension, perhaps for

the rest of their lives. Auslan classes have already been cut in my area and so new Auslan interpreters for this area are not being trained.

Private businesses are not going to encourage those with a disability, those with high needs (note takers, interpreters, individual tuition) to help them achieve success.

Likewise how is the refugee, those of low economic status, those with other disabilities going to achieve workplace training, further their education, which will enable these people to take their rightful place proudly in Australian society.

Why change TAFE, which has been working well for so long, except to increase funding and improve an important educational system.

Submitted by

Pat Drummond of Bulli

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Susan Giacomelli, of Eastwood make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Aircraft Load controller/artist, in the postcode of 2122/2020.

I work part time, but my passion is art, I was half way through the Dip fine arts, when the fees went from \$1300pa to \$7700 for the revised course, which must be completed within 2years, my husband and I rely on my wage, so I cannot give it away, plus the new fee may as well be a million dollars, taking a loan is not an option for us, at this time. My ultimate aim in undertaking this course, was so that I could use the credentials, and teach art in retirement to supplement our income.

(I also have to work around my 9year old daughters, requirements)

This is the 3rd course that I have undertaken at tafe, I found the knowledge from them to be invaluable, and am proud to have the qualifications, That were not available to

me at any other teaching facility.

Well that was going to to me, tafe was going to supplemented our retirement income, as well as further my knowledge.

At tafe the teachers also taught at Uni, they often said the tafe course was far superior, and much more well rounded, as it was a "hands on' diploma.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I have been advised that a local art school is getting together a dip fine arts, course. I find it difficult to believe that it could even hold a candle to the facilities and teachers offered at tafe.

ALL funding was withdrawn from the course I was doing, which meant I and many others could not complete the course, which meant that the course was more expensive for those who could afford it.

Well.....The diploma of fine arts course that has always taken 2years full time, now takes 1year full time, and costs 3 times as much, how is that fair, especially for those of us that had made the commitment to it?

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦Without TAFE our/my world is a smaller, less educated, close minded place to be.

This year I had to put it on hold, as the cost was just out of our budget. This has been a major disappointment for me, because tafe was not only a place of learning but connected artists, galleries and artists in a tight knit community, of inspiration and

opportunities, now I work on my art at home, but I so miss the input from others.

Submitted by

Susan Giacomelli of Eastwood

Tuesday 16th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Martin Silveira, of Prairiewood make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Health Promotion Officer, in the postcode of 2170.

I lived and worked in western Sydney most of my life. I am now a health promotion officer, which I completed as a mature aged student at University of Western Sydney.

Previously I twice studied at TAFE twice: Theater and Performance and and then Nutrition and Practice . Both were vital to me as a school leaver and not having achieved a good TER I knew I wanted to learn but university was out of my reach, also I had to support myself and TAFE enabled me to study using practice based methods in an affordable manner. I soon gained employment as a result. The second time I went back to TAFE to learn nutrition helped me gain confidence in studying and helped me gain entry into University.

I owe TAFE a great deal, I enjoyed my time at TAFE as the learning and teaching methods were thorough and lessons learnt practical.

The skills I have learnt in TAFE helped me immensely. I gained confidence, knowledge and most importantly it gave me hope.

There were times during my TAFE study, where I became unemployed and TAFE was a ray of light and hope, that encouraged me to keep going, this was vital as a young person to have the hope that I was being productive and learning to help myself and consequently others in turn.

15 years later, 2 TAFE courses and BSH and Masters completed, I know first hand that learning is a life long process and that the greatest resource to a country is an educated population able to be resilient, resourceful and able to adapt to meeting the challenges faced by Australia as we grow, mature and advance.

Personally TAFE gave me the opportunity to explore two avenues after leaving school Performing arts and Nutrition and Dietary Practices. Two chances, two life changes and I embraced both with the full understanding that this was a very real opportunity to a future in which I was actualizing myself.

Growing up in south western Sydney, I witness many of my friends drop out of high school for many reasons. Some then returned to complete their HSC at TAFE and most succeeded because TAFE embraces adult learning principles which respect people on their own terms and works with them, not at them.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Language schools for overseas students: I have witness both family and friends attend these schools on arrival in Australia and what they are tough is quite lower skill/bases conversational English.

Soon after I finished my Nutrition and Dietary practice the course was halved in content and then completely cut and its modules sold to a University.

Locally mechanic students intake has been reduced and the competencies have also been reduced, every time your reduce learning you create a situation that runs the risk of lower standards and fewer opportunities for people domestically and internationally.

Speaking with students in a professional level as party of my current roles, many feel they are now being pushed into University courses which are overwhelming and many actually look at the financial cost they face into the future.

- living away from home
- course materials
- time to study / time for work
- center link befits
- outcomes: will i get a job after this.

Many after a full primary and high school career are fatigue by the intuition of learning and really want to pace there learning and base it on practical learning and not have to invest so heavily financially. I hear of many stories of older brothers and sisters that have gone to University only to drop out.

I hear of people wanting to attend TAFE but course are now cut, positions reduced or course modified in such ways that it appears as incomplete.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE produces real jobs, gives real hope to many and second chances to those face with the need to retrain in the changing employment market.

I myself am I product of all three things, I was lost at the of high school, I had a vague idea of what I wanted to do, but had my confidence bashed by a BAD TER.

TAFE showed me I could learn successfully, gave me back my confidences and sustained my hope through times where I was unemployed.

As a result I am a successful health promotion office and I site my time at TAFE as one of the most enjoyable, productive and enriching times of my life.

TAFE's builds futures, careers and sustain progress.

Submitted by

Martin Silveira of Prairiewood

Tuesday 16th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Elesia Pinto, of Balgownie make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 25 years old and work as a Admin Assistant, in the postcode of 2519.

I am currently attending Tafe studying Accounting.

Many people that I know have attended tafe. I have previously studied through correspondence and it can be quite difficult at times. Uni alot of the time is not an option or too daunting. Tafe is a great flexible option for many people to increase their knowledge and employability at their own pace.

I was stuck in a reception position for 5 yrs, every position that I applied for I was not considered due to lack of knowledge and experience. I began studying accounting at Tafe part time at night and after my first year and only being halfway through the certificate I found another position.

The tafe which I attend has a University next door. I have never had any desire to attend Uni, also a Uni course is out of my price range. I am planning to continue attending Tafe for at least the next 2yrs to complete the advanced diploma in accounting but some teachers have made me aware that it is possible that the course may not be available due to less funding.

this is only my second year at Tafe but I know that some classes that were taught last year in a semester are now being taught in 1 term. I cannot see how students are to learn what they need to know in this amount of time. It all seems quite rushed.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because for many people like myself it is the only option to further their education.

Submitted by

Elesa Pinto of Balgownie

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Margot Rawsthorne, of Leichhardt make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a 2040, in the postcode of NSW.

TAFE was the reason I was able to continue my education. I grew up in a small rural village (500 people) with little opportunities. I left school at 15 but returned to study my HSC through TAFE. This provided me with the opportunity to go on to university. 25 years later I'm lecturing at a university. This was all possible due to TAFE.

TAFE is essential for providing a broad range of training opportunities. Within my own family all my siblings have received first chance training via TAFE. They've all gone on to be successful in their various fields, from electricians to nurses.

Without TAFE my life would have been so much different.

As I said I grew up in a small rural village - TAFE was the only option.

TAFE cuts have adversely affected opportunities in Glebe for many people living in social housing that I work with.

TAFE morale and ability to respond to community needs have been severely eroded due to the attacks by various governments. Its undervaluing is very short sighted.

Investment in TAFE is vital for our communities future. It provides quality training options for important sections of our economy.

Submitted by

Margot Rawsthorne of Leichhardt

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Ken Archer, of Regents Park make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Technical Assessor, in the postcode of 2000.

I initially started my career as an apprentice electrical fitter where I attended a TAFE college once a week for the first 3 years. Later I went back to TAFE fulltime to study electronic engineering which led to my gaining employment as a trainee technical officer with the Department of Defence. I returned to TAFE a few years later and upgraded my qualifications to Advanced Diploma Electrical Engineering

There is a skills shortage due to lack of training/apprenticeships and overseas qualified people are being brought into the country to fill the void

It helped me improve my career. It also gave a former school friend, working in an unskilled job for several years another opportunity. He went to full time TAFE and then

got a start as a mature aged apprentice and became a qualified carpenter

My nice and nephew live around Nowra and have studied at local TAFE colleges

Not aware but I know my course was difficult and of a nationally recognised standard

Not affecting me but I have concerns for my grandson

It was initially free when I started. Exorbitant fees will detract those of less affluance to attend. Important courses may be dropped

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded for the future of Australia and our children and grandchildren

Submitted by

Ken Archer of Regents Park

Tuesday 16th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Grant Focas, of Woy Woy make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a manager of an education support team, in the postcode of 2135.

I have worked both in the TAFE and schools sectors for the last 11 years.

I have seen first hand how TAFE can have a positive effect on the lives of people who seek to increase their skills and education levels.

TAFE systems have a strong commitment to equity but I see that private providers do not have this same commitment. For example, when creating online courses for TAFE we always spent a lot of effort making sure that it would be accessible for all students

including the deaf and blind communities.

Governments do not have the money to properly audit and monitor all the private providers.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need a society where technical skills are kept up-to-date, are affordable and are of high quality.

Submitted by

Grant Focas of Woy Woy

Tuesday 16th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Debbie Lockerbie, of Yangebup make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Student, in the postcode of 6164.

It is important while I care for children to keep my skills up to date as I never know when I will need to go back to work. I have seen neighbours son do so well with his Tafe studies to full time work.

I find things are up to date and is current and the lecturers are always improving the their methods for the future of Tafes. I am a student of polytechnic and Perth central Tafe. We need these places for our children and all that wish to further their studies.

Tafe has given me the feeling of being valued and when I go out on pratice experience I am told by my supervising teachers how well I am doing.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...getting there on public transport.

I had been warned by friends that schools do not accept graduates from those places. Mainly Tafe and university.

I am afraid we will loose valuable resources like our experience lecturers.

No staples for papers for language. Cleaning not up to standard.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦there are more people like me that need what Tafes are teaching as it current and evolving, keeping pace with what industry is needing.

Submitted by

Debbie Lockerbie of Yangebup

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, peter mccarthy, of horsham make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a referee, in the postcode of 3400.

I am disheartened with the TAFE process after being relieved of many dollars on a course that was ill described correspondence course.

With the right course, it gets to the material and gets you on your way quickly.

The opposite really. Being on Centerlink assistance at the time I could ill afford the loss and have now decided not to risk further funds on education.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means... or would mean access to skills I would normally have to travel big distances for.

Across the board I'm sorry to say. TAFE is just another such organisation. I felt as though I was dealing with an organisation that had grown fonder of my money and was quite prepared to lie to keep my cash. Actually, private colleges might have been a better option. At least I might have been able to get my complaint fairly dealt with.

No

Yes. They seem a little desperate for cash and less interested in a quality product.

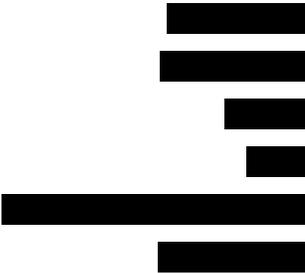
I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because perhaps they can undo the damage for those yet to use TAFE to reach higher goals. To say I'm deeply disappointed in the decline is an understatement. I held Education as more than just somewhere to improve your money earning potential. Knowledge is important too.

I won't be using the service again but others should have the ability to access their services but with protection from folk who can hold them responsible for their behaviour. Fund them well but also check their performance.

Submitted by

peter mccarthy of horsham

Tuesday 16th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Liz Burrows, of Lutana make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a carer, in the postcode of 7009.

I completed a Diploma of Art, Craft and Design through the Burnie TAFE in 2004. It was a 2 year full time course, which I was able to complete as a 4 year part time course, while I also worked part time.

The TAFE system delivers flexible options, and immediate work skills.

The area I was living in at the time (North West Tasmania) had only very limited university level courses available, and I wanted to do some tertiary level art studies, so TAFE was perfect for me.

We had a classic example in Tassie where the government provided funding to a private college, with great fanfare, which then went belly up apparently due to

mismanagement, and left staff unemployed and students with half finished subjects.

I know there have been campus closures here, and some cuts to courses.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because for many people this is the only way they are going to get the appropriate training and skills to enable them to find suitable work. It also offers flexibility for those who are wanting to change careers, and need to work while they study.

Submitted by

Liz Burrows of Lutana

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Nishat mahmood, of Kingswood make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a mediator , in the postcode of 2747.

Being in a new country with English as the main language it was difficult to be in the workforce with my original degree from country of origin. TAFE has helped me to get a job and be in the workforce with out struggle

TAFE is for people who want to be in workforce ASAP. It is the best way to go and gives opportunity to chose what they want to do and get trained and be confident to work in the industry. And companies get trained personal and get better output

It not only gave me a chance to be in work force as new migrant but also gave my son a great opportunity to start higher studies. He had depression & couldn't start university for a yr. TAFE gave him confident to access in higher study plus start a job CAD

draftsman

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes, they are coming up like a mushroom/which will decrease the standard of education. Already we are behind in compared to many countries in part of the world

Lot of campuses are getting closed and increase in student fee. If we cannot train people in Australia we will be importing people from overseas. In a way not looking after our people

There will be additional hardship due to increase of fee for young people.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it will be helpful for young people who cannot afford Uni and be in workforce with confidence.

Submitted by

Nishat Mahmood of Kingswood

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Susie Pearman, of Crookwell make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Admin Assistant, in the postcode of NSW.

I am looking at doing Business admin courses at night which is impossible because of the course cutting

My 19yr old son is looking to further his studies thru TAFE as he didn't finish school, it is disappointing that he is now limited again because of course cutting and teacher cuts as well. Also the rising fees do not help either.

Thru TAFE I was able to gain my current position which I ahve held for 10 yrs now.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...myself and my children can gain furhter skills before entering the workforce.

No

Yes I have

There are fewer courses available and night time learning has become non-existent because of the cuts.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE is an important step for children to better their skills and to gain more knowledge. It also helps to prepare our children to enter the workforce.

Submitted by

Susie Pearman of Crookwell

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Brad Hutchins, of Theresa Park make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 45 years old and work as a Head teacher, in the postcode of 2164.

I'm currently a TAFE Head Teacher. I have a trade back ground gained through TAFE. I have completed many short and long courses through TAFE that has enabled me to be where I am today. I have managed apprentices in the past that have gained qualifications through TAFE. I have a 18y.o daughter who has completed a cert III course with TAFE that has enabled her to gain employment at first interview. I have a son who is currently studying a trade course through a private RTO who is struggling with a lack of support.

TAFE delivers underpinning knowledge that contributes to the flexibility of our constantly changing work and employment enviroment. There are great support mechanisms that support the students through their course. TAFE has the ability to be

flexible to meet changes across varying industries

My daughter is a classic example as she was medically discharged from Defence Force and was able to achieve a qualification and in particular the training was diverse enough for her to be able to go "anywhere" and achieve employment. I also see second chances and third and fourth chances everyday in my job as a TAFE teacher.

You don't have to live rurally to see the already lack of funding to TAFE with buildings and resources run down, Teachers denigrated because of their perceived conditions. You can always get a cheaper job done elsewhere but is it of the same quality?

YES! My 16y.o son currently is with Electrogrouop where he has been sworn at, belittled in front of the class and received no support when requested. Westrac currently operate their own training and early indicators from their apprentices that have done both TAFE and Westrac is that the apprentices believe TAFE is better.

We are seeing real cuts in our own budgets as we are paid on a per student per hour basis that amount has been increasingly less each year despite the cost of living and the need to invest in advanced technology to deliver the courses increasing. There were support mechanisms like curriculum centres that helped Teachers at the coal face, there gone, the job now that of the Teacher. Administration staff reduced that now the Teacher does more of that role.

User pays! That's the buzz word now. Commercial business is the push! It will be difficult for a teaching section to exist if they do not have a sizable amount of commercial money coming in. Cram more students in a class and deliver more "offsite" to reduce the demand on TAFE resources; that's the message teachers get. Not about quality delivery or outcomes. The only people making money are Auditors

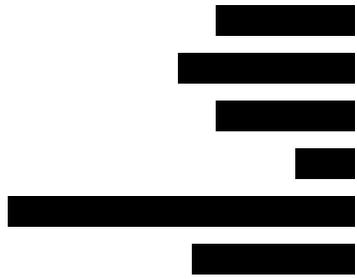
who are auditing a process not an outcome of training

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we use to lead the World in training especially in the trade areas. Now and as a Head Teacher, is not about how we can improve what we do it is more about where do we save or make money. Over the last 5 years there has been a lot of fat trimmed from TAFE NSW and very little in investment in return.

Submitted by

Brad Hutchins of Theresa Park

Tuesday 16th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, John Pozza, of Currans Hill make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a Technical Officer, in the postcode of 2000.

I dropped out of year 11 in 1979. I worked as a factory labourer for 6 months until I gained an apprenticeship with the State Rail Authority (SRA) of NSW in 1980. I was an Endentured Apprentice Coppersmith and attended Petersham TAFE. I completed my apprenticeship. The State Government, TAFE and my Union decided that my trade should be done away with in 87. The reason given was they all wanted a multi skilled workforce. Coppersmithing was the most multiskilled trade around. I went to TAFE in my own time from 1988 to 1994. I left the SRA to work for the Federal Government in 1989. The courses I completed in that time and my own cost at TAFE:

1. Engineering Drafting
2. Advanced Certificate in Electrotechnology
3. Associate Diploma in Electrical Engineering

4. Fibre Optics course.

Without the courses of study that were available at the time I would not be working in the engineering industry as a technical officer today.

As far as engineering trades go, NO, TAFE doesn't, NOT ANYMORE. .

As demand for engineering courses reduced or students numbers reduced, TAFE cancelled courses. Sometimes in the 1990s and early 2000s courses were cancelled part way through a semester. Recently, one TAFE teacher I know (his contract was cancelled because he was a part time teacher) was the only teacher able to provide a certain engineering subject, but because he was part time the bureaucrats cancelled his course and his contract, so now there is 15 students that can't finish that subject and their course.

In the end this is not just about TAFE, BUT THE TOTAL DESKILLING OF THIS COUNTRY which has been going on from the early 1980s until this very moment. We find our selves here in this situation because we have not trained apprentices in REAL Apprenticeships. A 2 year apprenticeship does not make a true Tradesman. We have failed to train our Technical officers, but now I find in my work place young bright (in most cases) Engineers are taking over the work once done by the Techos and these young engineers DON'T have my skills or knowledge. So in the future as the requirement for highly skilled Technical officers drops off and University Trained Engineers are employed to replace people like me, TAFE will become a non entity.

As stated above, I went from Factory Labourer, to Apprentice, then Tradesman to Technical Officer.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I have noticed an increase in poorly trained Trades people, and so called technicians.

Possibly, and lets not forget the bureaucracies both TAFE and all State Governments since the 1980s. This isn't just a Liberal Government thing, the past Labour governments were in it up to their elbows too.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because when I retire in 9 years time I will not be coming back to work as a contractor. Think about it, can you find anybody that is not retired that is capable of teaching an engineering trade and what is required at the BEST standard? Maybe TAFE should offer a Coffee making courses.

Submitted by

John Pozza of Currans Hill

Tuesday 16th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Joan Silk, of Liverpool make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a health researcher, in the postcode of 2170.

My son attended TAFE to do his apprenticeship in carpentry. He received excellent training and is now a successful carpenter. In my work I have also been close to a number of Basic Education students who are attending TAFE in order to update their work skills, eg. English language skills. They have been trained so well by the very caring and hard working teachers at TAFE and have succeeded in getting jobs. The difference this has made to their lives is so important, not only the employment but also in terms of self-esteem and confidence. These students were all keen and enthusiastic but had difficulty getting employment because they were young or untrained or poor or new arrivals or had been out of the workforce, etc. I have also worked with the TAFE Outreach courses as part of my job and i have the greatest admiration for the work that is done in the community by these dedicated teachers and students. The students have often had many obstacles to face in their lives and TAFE has literally been a life

saver for many. It has been accessible when other avenues have not been available for many students, young and old. it MUST be supported.

I believe that TAFE is vitally important in developing skills. I have seen many people get jobs and change their lives as a result of receiving education and training at TAFE. This has made a difference to individual families but also to communities in that social inclusion has come about as a result of people being employed, happier, more confident and engaged as well as with a new positive sense of the future for themselves and their families.

Particularly in relation to women who may have been out of the workforce for some time, TAFE is important as a training ground for getting not only the technical skills for employment but also preparing people with the social skills and support necessary for a successful transition back into the workforce.

I work in an area where the local TAFE makes a significant contribution to the local economy and communities

I have noticed that a number of poorly regulated private colleges seem to be more interested in getting fees than really understanding the situation and training needs of their students. Also their publicity seems to me to often be misleading. I have found TAFE to be an organisation that is ethical and dedicated to the betterment of its students rather than to the private profits of business proprietors.

I have seen job losses and job insecurity for teachers and losses of programs in a number of TAFEs

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because i have

seen people's lives being turned around as a result of their participation in accessible, supportive TAFE courses. This affects families, individuals and communities. I do not want to see depressed communities and people and I am concerned that this will be the ultimate result of cuts to TAFE. It is already happening.

Submitted by

Joan Silk of Liverpool

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Robert Baker, of Armidale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a PhD researcher, in the postcode of 2350.

I studied at TAFE when I undertook a Boilermaker/Welder Apprenticeship and I worked for two decades in the trade.

I am sick of hearing that there is not enough skilled workers in Australia and then hearing about cuts to TAFE - we should have a surplus of skilled workers - not a shortage. The government is not doing its job by cutting TAFE funding - they are sabotaging Australia - shape up or ship out Barry and Co.

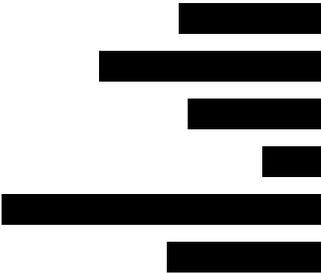
Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦
Australia needs more skilled Australian workers - or so industry says, we should not
have to poach skilled workers from other countries...

Submitted by

Robert Baker of Armidale

Tuesday 16th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, nicki mercer, of woolgoolga make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a retired, in the postcode of 2456.

Business studies degree, major Hotel & Catering management, London,1972.
Extensive travel working in Hospitality. Joined NSW TAFE 1983 as Hospitality teacher.At this time,TAFE was the most wonderful, dynamic educational and community organisation ,helping many to become qualified in trades,other vocational areas or prepare for further study.

TAFE teaching staff, both full and part-time, are experienced in the workforce-in their particular teaching area.Their ability to hand on their expertise is invaluable to maintain a strong skilled Australian workforce

two students in my section,both from very disadvantage backgrounds and had not

completed year 10, sleeping rough, undertook a 12 week introductory course in commercial cookery. Both gained apprenticeships in the industry and successfully completed their studies when they were 18. They have pursued careers in the industry.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...a chance to obtain recognised qualifications, to catch up on studies not completed when younger, to be able to study within travelling distance of home. Many courses have already been cut, including many designed specifically for disadvantaged groups.

A private provider of a catering unit did not demonstrate the method to dissect a chicken using a chicken..but photographs!!

A private provider conducting a bar service course in rented premises that had no draught beer!! Difficult to practise!

In the decade prior to my retirement in 2005 there had been draconian cuts in many areas, leading to redundancies of many experienced teachers, a huge increase in workload in teaching sections as admin. duties were passed on to them. Continual restructuring caused instability and reduced moral

TAFE cuts have resulted in a significant strain on the effective delivery of quality education. Too much emphasis is spent on budget "bottom" line with too little regard for the communities educational needs. There is an imbalance in focus. There needs to be a concern for efficiency that also has a wider view of TAFE's purpose.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is a vital education sector that must remain to fully service our community

Submitted by

nicki mercer of woolgoolga

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Margaret Quon, of Mt Evelyn make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am [REDACTED] years old and work as a program co-ordinator, in the postcode of 3072.

I am a trained teacher and now a trainer at a TAFE. I have spent 40 years in the education sector and in the community sector supporting families around drug and alcohol issues. My daughter has been to TAFE before going onto university. This gave her the confidence to continue with her studies in the business management discipline.

Measuring the value of a TAFE education is currently accomplished using specified data collected over a period of time. Measures are decided based on how many students enrolled in each course offered, how many completed their courses and from there how many gained employment. Added to that data we can include those who went onto higher education. This value is pure quantitative data with little consideration given to the personal attainment of students, the guts and determination to turn their lives

around and the satisfaction of doing so. Tafe is a unique learning environment that on any given day is vibrant, colourful and diverse.

The Tafe environment where I teach is exceptional in the outcomes achieved for students. Our students can be measured with data, the numbers we have in classes and how many classes we deliver each week but for me that is not the true value of the opportunity we provide.

My department is an adult learning environment where students must be twenty years of age or older. In 2012 our eldest student was 74 years of age and she continues to speak glowingly of her experience at NMIT. She continues to hold a position in a school undertaking the pastoral care of primary age children and their families. The younger students in her class were enthralled by the experiences shared by the older student particularly the sharing of the importance of a work ethic, employability skills and maintaining relationships. She gave them self belief that anything is possible by example in a perfect Tafe setting.

In the past twelve months I have utilised the vocational skills of many industry trainers who gained their initial education in our department. There remains for me no greater measure of the value of what Tafe provides than seeing these trainers engaging and inspiring other adults to be the best they can be, to make choices they can follow through with and to leave the past behind.

Our most experienced and highly regarded trainer from Industry studied as a single parent, went onto University and completed Social Work, worked with integrity in the mental health sector and then returned to NMIT as a trainer. Her skills are invaluable, she herself values the opportunities that Tafe provided her and the knowledge and skills she attained and consequently she gives that back to current students in her teaching. While we would benefit greatly from her skills on a daily basis we graciously share her with the counselling program required after Black Saturday.

We do what we do well, in many of our courses we have adults with police checks that may restrict them, we have students on parole, and we have students who have served time. No one would know. Every student is treated with respect and given the same opportunities. Our pride is that these students succeed where previously they had given up or never tried or others had given up on them. The value to the community is immense; these students have gone onto employment, have mentored others and have stayed out of the justice system. One student has returned as a highly valued trainer and mentor to other students. He takes his learning across Australia to encourage and support similar people to his past to seek education and change in their lives. This is backed by the large corporate organisation that employs him.

Many of our students are parents returning to work or seeking work and they find the best way to do that is to undertake Tafe training in a chosen field. Our students who are parents model to their own children the importance of choice that an education can give them. Not everyone is suitable for a university education and not everyone is suitable for a Tafe education but people find having the choice opens up far more than they had previously imagined. If we reduce Tafe opportunities we reduce the social capacity of these students.

I am impressed constantly by the dogged determination of our students who have not had a positive time in their school days, who have learning difficulties, who are bi lingual, our refugees, those in recovery from a range of health or social issues. Tafe supports these students through programs supplementing the classroom delivery. Our Tafe has a uniquely cooperative approach to ensure students who once believed they could not achieve, achieve.

A young man in his mid twenties who had a difficult schooling due to family issues, times of being homeless and times without parental guidance was so thrilled with the feedback of his assessment task he told me he was taking the assignment to Nanâ€™s house to display on the fridge, he was so proud of himself and he knew his Nan would be also. How can we measure that moment as a turning point in that young

manâ€™s life? He now runs his own business facilitating workshops for other young people on managing anxiety.

Education should be a right for everyone at any point in their lives. NMIT is diligent in the delivery of its programs and courses. Students have access to support from the Disability Support Office if they have a disability, classroom support from the learning unit, study support from student services and where identified support from Koori services. Every effort is aimed at a positive learning environment. The responsibility of those who achieve their education is to do something meaningful back in the community.

Without our courses we would not have skilled staff working with people with a disability, we would not have programs for the homeless, children at risk, we would not have compassion for those with mental health issues and those struggling with drug and alcohol issues. Workers in all areas of the sector would be without access to evidence based best practice and latest government initiatives.

Our graduates fulfil roles in the community services sector that make a difference to the lives of others just like the Tafe education makes a difference to their lives.

I live in the Lilydale area and with the closure of the Swinburne campus I am aware that many isolated students from the Yarra Valley will no longer have access to education choices, public transport is too unreliable and expensive to travel to other suburban sites. The impact will be felt greatly in the area.

Sadly many prospective students cannot access a Tafe course with the huge increase

in fees over the last twelve months. Many students have not continued into second year of their course with fees rising in one case from approximately seven hundred dollars per year to almost six thousand dollars. To watch her wipe away tears and walk out the door was heartbreaking as she had shared her future employment opportunities that had been made to her dependent on her completion of study. She was so excited about these prospects as study and employment were about to break her from a cycle of poverty and hardship as the single parent of four children, two with disabilities.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the opportunities provided by a TAFE education are immeasurable, they build self-esteem, self efficacy, self determination in areas of our students lives that never existed before. The system is a circular one where our past students assist in the training via practical placement of our current students and future employment opportunities.â€¦

Submitted by

margaret quon of mt evelyn

Tuesday 16th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Thais Turner, of Lidcombe make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am close to 50 years old and work as a Library Manager, in the postcode of 2141.

I've worked for TAFE for almost 30 years. I've done some short TAFE courses in that time. I've heard vast numbers of personal journeys about how TAFE has changed so many lives from people of every socio-economic and cultural background in that time as well.

TAFE is responsive to industry and trains the workforce as per industry needs, developing today's real life skills and skills for the future in emergent markets, even internationally. This makes for a smart and strong workforce, beyond the theory that many (including myself) learned at Uni. TAFE trains for vocational and practical application of skills.

TAFE continues to give people from all walks of life and backgrounds (especially refugees) a second chance. Career changes have been forged through TAFE. The value is impossible to quantify and should not be underestimated, of the ability for large sectors of the population to access education and open up life opportunities through the pathway of all that TAFE offers.

I come from a country area of NSW and TAFE is the only option for further education in that area. Less funding hits regional areas particularly hard, when there is already a major struggle trying to provide training and work opportunities to keep people of all generations in the area to keep it flourishing.

The change in funding models has seen a large increase in poorly regulated private colleges and institutions who have much lower standards than TAFE. Some are shonky fly-by-nighters, very few of the recently opened operations, have the quality that TAFE offers. None can supply the support services that TAFE offers in every State.

Budget cuts are affecting the range and number of courses able to be offered. Higher costs are discouraging students and causing courses to close. This in turn affects number of staff able to be retained.

Federally set-up Australian Technical Colleges are a waste of funds, as are the workshops and kitchens being set up in so many High Schools - this is an incredible waste of money and duplication of a strong and effective TAFE system that was already in existence in our States and Territories. It appears that Federally there is an intent for 100+ years of infrastructure to be destroyed in our TAFE Colleges for no sensible purpose.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because of all my comments above and without a well funded TAFE system in all States and Territories, Australia will not be able to hold it's head high internationally or nationally as Smart or Skilled.

Submitted by

Thais Turner of Lidcombe

Tuesday 16th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, , of Eagleby make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 40 years old and work as a mum, in the postcode of 4207.

I have been furthering my education through NSW Tafe Grafton for the last 6 years while being a stay at home mother. Previously I worked in IT for 18 years. My passion is aquaculture now.

TAFE contributes by teaching hands-on skills that I wouldn't learn else where unless I actually worked in the industry.

TAFE Grafton has opened my eyes to the possibilities for planet sustainability which is very important to me and my family.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes, I live in QLD and TAFE Grafton is the only place except Tasmania I can do the certifications I require. From June 2013 I cannot get a any fee exemption due to the fact I live out of NSW.

Yes. We should be allowed to attend any TAFE in the country and receive the fee exemption no matter where your permanent address is.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦I now have to pay a very expensive fee or cannot complete my certification because I live in a different state. If they offered the same course in my state it would not be a problem - but they don't.

Submitted by
of Eagleby

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Joanna Carroll, of Woodford make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 56 years old and work as a Librarian, in the postcode of 2753.

I already have a higher education qualification but I attended TAFE to complete a course related to the volunteer work that I do in the community. This course enhanced my ability to do the volunteering. Under the proposed new regime I would probably not do the course because it would be too expensive or even potentially not available. Having done the course - CALM CII my appreciation of our natural environment was greatly altered - for the better.

TAFE provides quality education and training to all who enrol - the qualifications provided by TAFE have a quality that is recognised far and wide - I believe countries in Asia are looking to replicate the type of TAFE education and training available in Australia - a testament to the 100 years of TAFE training and education that should not

be lost to self-interested, profit motivated businesses who are seeking government dollars.

I remember knowing a man who was in jail and on day release to TAFE. He spent 3 years working to get a qualification that would see him succeed once he was released, he worked very hard at his studies and gained a distinction for his qualification. TAFE teachers and staff supported and nurtured his studies with counselling, library and tutorial support.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

We have had the example of the Security guard qualifications that were esposed by ABCs 7.30 report.

Personally I am aware of someone who received a certificate of qualification for a course she had not yet completed. She was honest enough to tell the RTO but they still did nothing about it.

In our area we have lost a Literacy Officer who did fine work with community groups and setting up volunteer tutor groups. The question is: how does someone like this running highly successful programs get replaced and what do the illiterate do now?

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because fully government funded education and training is the only way to ensure equal access to quality education for the Australian people. Young people should not be starting their working lives with education debts to the Federal or State governments. Tax-payer dollars should be used to directly fund education not create debt for the population who wish to access education and training. Government run education ensures flexibility and access to education and training that is not motivated by private enterprise and

profit motives.

Submitted by

Joanna Carroll of Woodford

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Theo Megalokonomos, of Ultimo make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 52 years old and work as a full time Operations Services Officer S.I.T Ultimo campus TAFE NSW, in the postcode of 2007.

TAFE NSW has always made the Huge difference to most of the youth people who have study and started their Professional Careers. The impact ,For the last 120 years we had hundreds of thousands of students learned their trades.

Starting their professional Careers, getting that first start in their working Life™s, very Successfully ,with a great distinction , the highest possible Standard & Professionalism, Accountability, Responsibility, Dignity and Self-respect.

They have learned Life Values, Exceptional Skills, International accreditations, the first steps to go higher to University, or have Academic Achievements, or start their own businesses.

The most important aspect of their TAFE studies times was that we do look after you. All of our students have always been treated like our own family members / kids, with Great Attention, Unlimited Love, Unconditioned Care ,Tax free Support, Guides, Advises, Life skills, Experiences, Role Models teachers, The best possible H/Teachers, some of the Highest quality of Senior Management TAFE Directors with yearsâ€™ experience from Australia and overseas, International Recognitions, etc.. We do care about the students welfare and beyond, All students get a Fair go ,Equity treatment, Assistance at great lengths from the unselfish committed and 1000 % dedicated staff Teaching and Non-teaching â€™Supporting staff at the DET-TAFE NSW.

Look at most of the famous Celebrities, very successful people in Australia. Most of them have had one way or another did study in the TAFE System I n the beginning of their Careerâ€™s .

The TAFE HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE COMPLETE IDEAL PACKADGE & PROVIDER.THE NUMBER ONE EDUCATION INSTITUTION WITH THE BEST POSSIBLE RESALTS .

SINCE COLONAZATION OF THIS COUNTRY â€™TAFE HAS BEEN THE BEST AMONG THE BEST IN TOP QUILITY OF EDUCATION INTERNATIONALLY.

<http://www.sydneytafe.edu.au/recognition/what-counts>

What counts as recognition towards my course? | Sydney Institute Web Site.

TAFE COMMUNITIES PLAY ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ROLES AT THE WIDER AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES. WE BUILD THE CAREER BRIDGES FOR ALL ...YOUNG AND OLD..POUR AND REACH....ALL

MULTICULTURALISM.....ALL RACES..ALL DIVISIONS.WE ARE THE BEST OPEN EDUCATIONAL MARKETS IN THIS COUNTRY.ALMOST FOR

FREE.....STUDENTS PAYING PEANUTS COMARE TO ALL OF THE OPTHER
PRIVATE- OR NOT INSTITUTIONS.....BUT THEY GAIN THE BEST RESALTS...ATY
OUR EXPENSES.

[Home](#) [â€°](#) [Recognition](#) [â€°](#) [Benefits of recognition](#) [â€°](#) [TAFE NSW Sydney Institute](#)

[Benefits of recognition](#) [â€°](#) [TAFE NSW Sydney Institute](#)

[Share on facebook](#) [Share on twitter](#) [Share on google_plusone_share](#) [Share on email](#)
[More Sharing Services](#) 0

Recognition of your skills can lead you to:

Shorten the time taken to complete your training or qualification

Recognition could allow you to complete your Sydney Institute qualification faster.

Pathway to university

Sydney Institute qualifications are recognised by universities and can make your pathway into university easier.

Nationally accredited qualifications

Under the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF), all qualifications are nationally recognised. Qualifications gained through recognition have the same value as those gained through course work at TAFE.

Pay/salary claims or promotion

Having your skills and knowledge recognised may help you to get a pay rise or move into a better position at work.

Changing career paths

With your skills and knowledge recognised, you could have a head start up the ladder in your new career path.

To find out more about recognition for your qualification contact Sydney Institute.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

EVERY OPPORTUNITY-ACCESABLE AVAILABLE TO THE STUDENT.GIVE THEM THE BEST POSSIBLE CHANGES TO FULLFIL THJEIR GOALS.SKILLS.EXPERIENCES.

BY PERSONAL VISITS , BY ONLINE..BY MAIL OTEN ...BY SELF PASTE STUDUING...AND A LOT OF OTHER MODERN WAYS THAT I DON'T KNOE THE NAMES BY HEART NOE.

<http://umvweb1.sydney.det.win/blogs/easi/>

EDUCATION IN THE NEWS

THERE ARE A LOT OF BAD EXAMPLES OF PRIVATE VERY POOR PRIVATE INSTITUTES WHO NEVER WILL BE AS GOOD AS THE TAFE NSW. NO WAY THEY CAN OFFER WHAT WE DO OFFER FOR NEXT TO NOTHING IN COST. THE TAFE QUALITY IS THE BEST IN THIS COUNTRY AND I STAND FOR IT. PROUD AND RESPECTFUL WITH MY INTERNATIONAL MARINE ENGINEER DIPLOMA AND 21 YEARS WORK IN ALL OF THE TRADES AREAS AT THE SYDNEY INSTITUTE OF TAFE - ULTIMO CAMPUS. WE ARE SIMPLY THE BEST OF THE BEST. UNDERFUNDED.. UNDERSTAFFED UNDER THE CHOP CHOP..... A SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION VERY RARE, JUST ABOUT TO BE DESTROYED. WHAT HEARTS ALL OF THE HARD WORKING PUBLIC SERVANTS STAFF IS THAT WE NEVER HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED AND RECOGNIZED FOR OUR COMMITMENT. MOST OF US HAVE PUT THE TAFE NSW FAR FAR ABOVE OUR FAMILY'S AND PERSONAL CAREERS, JUST TO PROVE HOW MUCH WE DO CARE ABOUT OUR BUSINESSES AND SUCCESSES, FOR YEARS AND YEARS, BECAUSE WE ARE TOTALLY COMMITTED TO THE GOOD CAUSE OF THE TAFE NSW TO BE NUMBER ONE IN THE DOWN UNDER EDUCATIONAL WORLD. NO MORE ... NO LESS.

LOWER ENROLMENTS... LOWER BUDGETS..... LOWER STAFF LESS AND LESS BUSINESSES... NO COMMITMENT. ALWAYS WE ARE THE LEFT OVERS OF THE UNIVERSITY'S..... THE REBELS .. THE LAST RESOURCES... THE BACK UP PLAN FOR THE STUDENTS.

THE LAST CHANCE BEFORE THE CENTRELINK.... UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE..... IT IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE AND UNFAIR TO TREAT US LIKE A THIRD WORLD INSTITUTION... WE KNOW THAT WE ARE THE BEST OF THE BEST AND NOBODY CAN UNDERSTAND WHY THEY WANT TO DESTROY

US....?? WHAT FOR..???

TOTAL CHAOS.....ABSOLUTELY DISAPPIERENCE OF THE EDUCATIONAL MAP OF AUSTRALIA.

EVEN AT CONGO AND ZIMBABUE THEY HAVING A LAUGHT AT OUR EXPENCES...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦!
WE DESERVE THE BEST OUTCOME.WE DESERVE TO EQUAL AMONG
EQUALS.....THERE IS NO ONE ELSE IN OUR TOP INTERNATIONAL CLASS IN
THE EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENTS IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE... WE
ARE SECOND TONONE.

Submitted by

Theo Megalokonomos of Ultimo

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, LIAM DUTAILLIS, of WEST WALLSEND make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 22 years old and work as a STUDENT, in the postcode of 2286.

I completed my trade as a Fitter and Machinist through NSW TAFE.
I attended TAFE during year 11 as part of Career link (a course offered at my high school) this was a brilliant start to my career in that field.
During my apprenticeship I began a Certificate IV on top of my trade studies, this course is to be completed in June.
TAFE has taught me countless excellent skills both practical and more broad life lessons through the wonderful mixture of theory and practical experiences.
TAFE has been a hugely positive part of my life, teaching me many skills for life.

The examples are endless. Without TAFE trained members of society services such as electricity, automotive, mining, manufacturing and agricultural in all formats would die a

certain death.

Affordable training for the future of those industries is essential!

If employers can't afford to train their staff their business will suffer a terrible reduction in productivity therefor end up far less profitable.

This would make us much less competitive in the ever expanding global market.

TAFE offers the huge number of school leavers with either no interest in university training or potentially the inability to afford university a great opportunity to expand their employability and productivity.

TAFE helped me gain my apprenticeship with a large manufacturing company, the skills I'd gained attending TAFE during school made me much more attractive as a potential apprentice.

All of the people I attended TAFE as part of my school's Career link program obtained successful employment.

I came from a country town on the NSW mid north coast where TAFE was a hugely popular further education facility.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means we can be more employable in a competitive employment market.

If courses are cut in regional areas that are already struggling the impacts could be tragic, multi skilled people are essential for regional areas. TAFE provides essential training for an extremely diverse range of sectors.

Absolutely.

In the town Taree neighbouring my home town of Wingham a private college came into compete with TAFE.

Their standards were questionable and their pricing was far out of the reach of many in our area.

Reduced staffing and hours, increased fees, reduced courses offered.

All extremely negatively, reduced staffing and hours, increased fees, reduced courses offered.

This all makes it harder and harder to get more skilled staff into the ageing work force.

I STRONGLY urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is the single most productive way to increase workplace efficiency and increase our competitiveness in the global market.

TAFE helped me and many many of my peers gain employment, without TAFE it would have been extremely difficult to obtain in an area with minimal employment opportunities.

TAFE offers an entry into the workforce for a much more diverse range of people than university could dream of.

I'm now studying Education at university of newcastle, my previous TAFE qualification helped me gain entry.

The life skills I obtained from TAFE helped me to make life changing decisions.

For your future's sake, please fund TAFE as strongly as possible!

The returns are endless and far out weight the costs.

Regards Liam.

Submitted by

LIAM DUTAILLIS of WEST WALLSEND

Tuesday 16th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Craig Thomas, of Andergrove make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 32 years old and work as a Electrician, in the postcode of 4740.

As a Trade Qualified Electrician I had to sit modules at TAFE to achieve my Certificate.

Teachers at TAFE came from the Trade Background so they have the first hand experience younger generations need to learn from

I'd did my Elevated Work Platform Licience at TAFE and without it would be very hard for me to find work in the construction industry

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means training is available to further your skills and gain the training required to complete tasks safely and effectively

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because everybody believes there is a Skills Shortage in Australia so lets invest the money in our kids and get them trained up and educated to keep our economy strong and growth projects can be completed

Submitted by

Craig Thomas of Andergrove

Tuesday 16th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Margaret Young, of Corrimal make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 49 years old and work as a casual tafe teacher, in the postcode of 2518.

I studied at university part-time and worked in my chosen career. Most people I studied with had studied at tafe prior to uni.

It has always been a path to learn skills to gain work - inexpensively and in a short time frame.

After a break for child raising tafe was where I went to learn the latest software to update my skills.

Tafe provides extension and transition between fields of study.

It initiates school students to life and work, partly by their cohort being of mixed age, work experience and background, and partly by being told when something is good enough.

By being challenged and achieving.

The opportunity can turn someone's life around, I see people's self respect and confidence grow all the time, the empowerment creates capable resilient people who will be assets in the industry, it's why I work.

Students from the country come to our course as a way of gauging their own interest and gaining employability skills. From this they go on to uni or work and often both.

In my field the software providers charge large amounts of money for intense short courses which don't give the experience or problem solving capacity a longer course achieves.

We have half the staff in our section we did 5 years ago and greater student numbers.

Most staff seem to be on the verge of retirement, jobs are just redistributed amongst remnant staff and students get less.

People seem to get exhausted and leave.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because for a less advantaged young person or a person retraining who has responsibilities and commitments, you need a path to employment, not debt. However you dress it up.

I have benefited by being mentored in my teaching, the mentors are leaving you don't replace this in a hurry.

Lots of trade skills enable a person to make their free time or under employment time profitable, usually benefiting their family, always benefiting their pride.

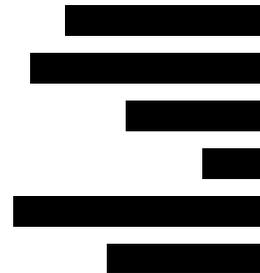
The person who used the time between jobs to renovate is completely different to the person who did nothing except get polite job rejections.

I think its tragic we don't value our youth more, they are not a commodity they are our future.

Submitted by

Margaret Young of Corrimal

Tuesday 16th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Fay Hardingham, of ARMIDALE make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 65 years old and work as a retired person, in the postcode of 2350.

I have a BA DipEd (UNE) but left teaching to raise my children. When I was able to re-enter the paid work force I was reluctant to return to teaching, especially as there were no re-entry/retraining routes available to me. But I was able to do a computer course at TAFE, get a good job and very happily pay taxes for the next 20 years.

TAFE provides CHOICE. Not everyone wants/can/should go to University but on the whole, unskilled jobs are a thing of the past. TAFE provides valuable/vital training especially in the trade areas. It also provides valuable 'life-long' learning opportunities with short courses which may provide people with that important 'first-step' on the employment ladder, or in my case a retraining opportunity that saved me from casual waitressing.

I think TAFE provides a vital and well regulated ALTERNATIVE in the training arena. We have seen the private colleges fail and students funds and futures go down with them. TAFE is a critical part of our modern education system we need to keep it strong, we need to keep training our population, we cannot rely on the private sector to do this and we should not be relying on other countries to do our training for us.

Submitted by

Fay Hardingham of ARMIDALE

Tuesday 16th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Yvonne Turnbull, of Manunda make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 47 years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 4870.

I studied at tafe NSW Newcastle campus for two years to obtain a trade certificate in Fashion. Upon completion I immediately commenced work in the clothing manufacturing industry. Whilst I was working I undertook further training at tafe in administrative work. When my husband was transferred to RAAF Tindal I was able to immediately gain employment in the locality in admin and finance.

Without the training at tafe I would have been limited in my work opportunities. I would have had a reduced ability to support myself and my children as a single parent.

I have had several students that have not just learned a valuable skill/trade at tafe, but more importantly students that have never succeeded at school until they come to my

classroom. One student when asked if they wanted to invite friend to his graduation stated "all my friends are my classmates, I never had a friend until I came to tafe". He was a 19 yr old gay student who had been ostricised and bullied at school. He also stated it was the first time he had ever been excepted for who he was, not what he was.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means that students will need to travel to Brisbane to receive training. The changes to federal funding are a big concern.

some private providers have offered me to just pay the fee and they wil give me the certificate. I have read advertisements for the same qualification that I teach delivered online and seen some of the work the students are producing at a lower standard.

Yes. Teachers can no attend professional conferences in brisbane to remain current in their profession, with no local opportunities to complete currency.

reduction of course availability at regional campuses.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because not everyone can take two years out of the work force to complete a diploma. They come from low socio economic overoups that cant afford full fees of the CERT IV fee structure that the government is proposing and dont qualify for concessions.

Submitted by

Yvonne Turnbull of Manunda

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Enid Etheve, of Mount Waverley make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 44 years old and work as a full time mum, in the postcode of 3149.

I left school in year 11 and worked for a few years until TAFE gave me the opportunity to complete my year 12, which led to University. Having my year 12 certificate has lifted my employment opportunities. I also did broadcast journalism at TAFE which allowed me to see first hand what it actually would be expected in the real world.

TAFE is industry based and prepares you for the real world. It's fast paced and you are trained better to cope with the actual job requirements. In this TAFE is better in a lot of cases than University.

I did my Year 12 at TAFE as an adult which allowed me to attend Melbourne University. I also did a broadcast Journalism course which was based on reality of the

industry and taught by teachers who have been professionals and real employment experience rather than teaching all their life. I have a friend also who completed Music at Box Hill TAFE and went on to play for a famous band and toured the world.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Some internet courses seem dubious and private colleges are extremely expensive and out of the range of someone who is financially stressed and who would need to improve their skills to gain a better employment.

Increases in fees. My husband applied to TAFE recently and was unable to attend the course because it was too expensive.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because of the future of my children. They may not be suited or equipped enough for University (funds) or ready for employment by the time they are finishing secondary school. I hope TAFE is still there for their options to do trade, sciences, arts etc. TAFE short courses are also beneficial for society and giving people outlets and opportunity.

Submitted by

Enid Etheve of Mount Waverley

Tuesday 16th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, SHAUNA MILLER, of GRAYS POINT make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 54 years old and work as a Lib Tech, in the postcode of 2232.

To achieve where I am I studied at Sydney Tech and without the qualifications I received I wouldn't be where I am now

Definitely. Not everyone wants to go to Uni and TAFE is FAR more relevant in many ways than a Uni course eg Hairdressing, Plumbing, Electrical, carpentry etc etc etc etc etc.....ad nauseum

Unfortunately I don't have any information about this but I'm sure that TAFE courses have given a lot of people and meaning and this is highly valuable.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

sorry I can't say

not really as I no longer attend TAFE

as above

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because courses and TAFE staff are irreplaceable..

Submitted by

SHAUNA MILLER of GRAYS POINT

Tuesday 16th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, CLAIRE AGE, of COAL POINT make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

TAFE colleges are the only institutions providing the technical and vocational training that is affordable for the thousands of students who are not accepted into universities and do not have the resources to attend private institutions. They are traditionally the only opportunity for tertiary education and further training open to the large numbers of people from less well off backgrounds who are effectively excluded from the universities because their families cannot give them the necessary support.

They also provide a second opportunity for people who have been employed in casual and menial occupations to obtain the qualifications to obtain better paid and more satisfying work.

Submitted by

CLAIRE AGE of COAL POINT

Tuesday 16th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Maria Walsh, of Keilor make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 46 years old and work as a Customer Service Specialist, in the postcode of 3036.

I studied at Bendigo Tafe back in 1984 and loved every minute of it. As I lived in the country and wasn't able to get to a university without moving away from home (no La Trobe in Bendigo then) it meant I could do further studies locally.

TAFE is available to everyone - not just 'smart' students. Not everyone is going to be a doctor/lawyer etc - we need tradies and apprentices in every field and Tafe is the way to help people achieve this.

My daughter studied at William Angliss in Melbourne and because she did VCAL instead of VCE this was an easy transition from High school to tertiary education for her. It lead into Tourism and opened her eyes to the world and she is now living and working overseas at a Ski Resort in Canada! If she didn't have to go onto from High

school I don't know what she would have been doing.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...as I mentioned above I did live in a rural area when I was growing up and TAFE was an essential part of the education system.

I know of several teachers that have lost their jobs from TAFE, with one of them being there for over 30 years (who taught me!) - he was an excellent teacher and now has no job! Great loyalty there - NOT!

TAFE will no be able to function as it should, being an accessable tertiary/further study education facility , if the Govt keeps cutting back - people cant all afford to go to university and have HECS fees for the next 10 years! TAFE needs to stay and get stronger not weaker!

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦it empowers people, young and old, to continue studying and to acheive their goals.

Submitted by

Maria Walsh of Keilor

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Martin O'Connell, of Booyong make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 54 years old and work as a Ranger, in the postcode of 2480.

I was lucky enough to study at a College of Advanced Education at Lismore and gain an Associate Diploma in Applied Science. This allowed me to pursue a satisfying career.

My daughter is 14. If she chose to pursue a trade it would be great if she could do so at the local Wollongbar campus. She deserves an equal opportunity to pursue a career.

TAFE provides the essential trade training that will allow Australia to grow - so that we don't have to import these skills - we all hear about the skills shortages.

I am not sure if my daughter will want to go to univeristy - but she is a talented young

lady and TAFE may be able to provide training to develop her skills and help her lead a productive life that contributes to the nation.

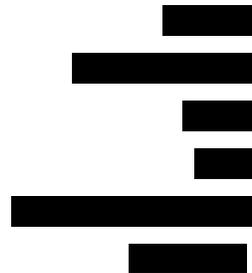
Wollongbar TAFE is where my daughter would do trade training - if it is kept running. It would be a waste if it were to be allowed to run down.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because our nation will need trade trained people now and in the future. I want my daughter to have opportunities - not provide them to imported trade persons.

Submitted by

Martin O'Connell of Booyong

Tuesday 16th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, eva cox, of Glebe make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

TAFE has offered a range of community learning programs that are the core to good education practices. While having a strong vocational role, this was always partnered by a strong community role. People who found school a bad experience often moved back into education via TAFE. I was one who used TAFE in the 50s to matriculate, when I was in trouble at school. TAFE' s role as part of local communities, particularly in rural areas acted to offer entry to learning in a range of areas. Programs like WOW and outreach were essential for disadvantaged individuals and communities. Indigenous relationships with TAFE have often been far better than with Schools or unis. The value of being responsive to community needs, of offering publicly funded and supported courses, libraries, counselors and expertise of staff for local projects. TAFEs add social value to many under-resourced communities.

Putting them into a market model with too much emphasis on employer needs and the need to tender on a price basis means a major shift in both function and culture. Few

private colleges offer support services. When I was teaching at UTS, they used our library. They do not become part of communities. Many underpay most of their under trained staff. As most are casuals they have little interest in the institution or commitment to students. the loss to smaller communities is very visible.

Responding only to market and employer needs may offer cheaper training but not value for money. As I'm now involved in Indigenous research, I am aware how limited options will be for re-entry to education, if the focus is entirely based on market models. Time, experience, cultural appropriateness and long term relationships are not part of market based competition.

Submitted by

eva cox of Glebe

Tuesday 16th of April 2013



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I, Chris Jones, of Forster make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 51 years old and work as a library manager, in the postcode of 2428.

My wife works at TAFE, my library does many projects in conjunction with TAFE and we redirect people who are seeking assistance in the community to TAFE. I have a son who is considering a course through TAFE and who has taken short courses with TAFE.

TAFE forms a key plank in the education process. They are accessible to all the community and are well regarded. They are the natural next step for many people after completing secondary school. They also enable people who may be marginalised, for whatever reason, to engage, or re-engage with the education process. Without TAFE capable individuals would never fully connect with the training skills they need. Any smart government would see TAFE as fundamental to skills improvement across the

nation.

I have a senior staff member who had disconnected with the workforce. It was through the CEEW course that she regained self-confidence and applied for the library position. She was successful and has since completed her tertiary qualifications in librarianship. She is a vital part of the library team. All possible through TAFE.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means so many people can engage with ongoing education. The local TAFE has already had courses cut, having a profound effect on many members of the community.

Yes. I was on a committee that established a TAFE diploma and Certificate III and IV in library studies with the North Coast TAFE. This course was developed using industry input and has resulted in students trained exactly how industry needs them. I was also involved in the redevelopment of the training package for Library studies. Through both of these experiences I came into contact with many RTOs that had substandard practices. I have also dealt with students from many training background and TAFE trained students always have skills far more in line with industry needs.

Who sections have been devastated and this has had a flow-on effect across TAFE and into the wider community. I cannot tell you how poorly the recent cuts have been viewed throughout the community. Probably the cruellest aspect of the cuts has been the removal of arts courses that enabled people who have been marginalised in society to re-engage.

Destroyed sections of TAFE, created an atmosphere of fear and doubt. Eliminated important courses for marginalised people. What actually was the rationale for these cuts?

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it brings education to all the community. It extends skill development to those that are less likely to engage with further education and it helps to re-engage marginalised members of the community. This should never have happened. What was the brief of those that made the cuts, what outcomes were they seeking? Is it only about funding? Were they aware of the sectors they affected? Why on earth was it done?

Submitted by

Chris Jones of Forster

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Joy Goodsell, of Sutherland make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 66 years old and work as a Retiired, in the postcode of 2232.

TAFE has been very important to me and to my family in providing an education to our family, who many may consider, to be an under educated and low income family.

It has enable myself to achieve through the NOW course, (New Opportunities for women, TPC (Tertiary Preparation Course)

Winning a scholarship to Sydney University (the first In my entire family)

This led to a wonderful, successful fulfilling career in community services.

Of my four children, all have begun their adult education at TAFE, and all moving towards Degrees in law, public administration, specialised education and business.

They have all worked hard, and often had to supplement incomes whilst studying.

In 1985 I faced life as a single parent, with the prospects of low paid work, given my long time out of the workforce, and lack of employable skills.

TAFE, through its practical adult education philosophy, excellent and encouraging teachers, and the interesting curriculums, I was able to have a long and well paid career.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means, that the courses are appropriate to the local area, and more accessible to disadvantaged or disabled people.

I have heard from many overseas students who work in local restaurants that they feel ripped off, and learn more working illegally.

Yes many of the art courses and more worrying the English classes are just not available for migrants and refugees.

I believe that the Federal government must either nationalise the whole system, or support TAFE by implementing specialised, targeted trade and education courses, and purchasing these directly through local TAFE colleges.

Imagine if all these refugees now thrown out into the community without access to English and trade courses, could be educated at a nationally funded ESL course?

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it gives everybody a fair go

Submitted by

Joy Goodsell of Sutherland

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Janet Dyne, of Alexandria make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 56 years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2015.

I began my association with TAFE as a volunteer literacy tutor in 1984, receiving training and placement in a program that provided a service to students in the community. I joined the staff at Randwick TAFE in Adult Basic Education in 1985 and have been working in TAFE at Randwick, Ultimo and in community settings, as a part-time, a full-time and temporary teacher since then with a couple of breaks in between. I have always felt a deep sense of commitment to the institution and the wonderful service it provides to individual students and to the community.

I have also benefited from TAFE as student, completing a Diploma in Conservation and Land Management at Ryde TAFE in 2006. It was an excellent course with the industry experience of the teachers and other students contributing greatly to the

breadth and depth in content, practical skills and fieldwork.

TAFE is not just an institution, it is a huge community of practice, with teachers in their diverse fields sharing knowledge, expertise, new ideas and innovations. In this way it has the capacity to be at the same time more than the sum of its parts, a capacity from which new ideas and innovations in education, training and industry can emerge.

A classic example of the role that TAFE plays both in people's lives and in the life of the community is the story of Mike and his personal and vocational pathway via TAFE. Mike, a man in his early forties, originally from the Cook Islands and resident in Australia for many years, came to Adult Literacy and Numeracy classes at TAFE through the Centrelink Personal Support Program, accompanied by his support worker. He had a chronic back problem as a result of a work injury in which pallets had fallen on him. He'd received no worker's compensation as he didn't know of his entitlements at the time. He had not worked for a long time.

Mike was very overweight and lacking in confidence. He had tried to enrol in a Security Guard course run by a private provider but his lack of literacy skills had made it impossible for him to complete the course, which included written assessments and a First Aid exam. He'd kept the materials from the course in the hope that one day he might be able to get back to it if he could improve his reading and writing in English sufficiently.

Mike said that after this experience, he'd been very nervous about starting at TAFE. However, he enrolled in the Course in Language, Literacy and Numeracy and as soon as he got started, he embraced the course fully, with near-perfect attendance and steady progress, especially in his confidence. Mike worked on his literacy and computer literacy and was soon assisting and encouraging his classmates. He got a

computer of his own and further developed his skills at home.

During the first year of his part-time study, Mike also enrolled in the gym and lost 45 kilos in weight, which brought him clearly into a fit and healthy range.

After about eighteen months part-time study in Adult Basic Education (now called Foundation Studies), Mike enrolled in a Security Officer course at TAFE. He passed the course, including the First Aid component and obtained his provisional licence. Having known Mike for over two years, his ABE teacher was able to stand as a referee for him. He soon returned in a stylish uniform to visit his proud teachers, to thank them for their support and demonstrate that their efforts had been worth it.

We later found out that in the course of his duties in a shopping mall, Mike had been called to attend a man suffering a cardiac arrest and had saved the man's life by administering CPR, as he had been trained to do as part of his security course at TAFE.

Mike went on to qualify for his full security licence and has been in steady employment ever since.

I have spoken with Indigenous people in remote areas, such as Wilcannia, where TAFE is understood as the only opportunity for post-secondary and second chance education. In many areas such as this TAFE is seen as an institution that is known and trusted, with a good reputation in the community, delivering satisfying outcomes.

Most private vocational providers at best struggle to meet the standards in education and the servicing of student needs that TAFE is able to achieve. We have had students at Ultimo TAFE, returning to study to do reading and writing classes with us, for example, after receiving a Certificate III in Aged Care at a private provider, unable to

get a job because of a complete lack of literacy in English.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because over generations, TAFE has become an essential pillar of public education in Australia in urban, regional and more remote areas. Losing TAFE as it is, a cornerstone provider of public post-secondary and second chance education, would be a huge loss to the nation. TAFE has given thousands of apprentices, and other post-secondary and mature-aged students the opportunity to develop a career in a highly professional and supportive environment.

This institution has taken over a hundred and twenty years to evolve and develop into a first class provider that has tailored itself over the years to precisely fit the needs of students and the community. And it now seems as though we are at risk of losing this culture of vocational opportunity, support, professionalism and community engagement through short-sighted policy aimed at achieving short-term government cost-cutting and abdication of responsibility in the vital areas of education, vocational training and community development.

Students and apprentices are becoming clients/customers, indeed consumers, with education and training as products or commodities to be consumed, as we are all consumed by the relentless grinding of the cogs of the wheels of a system that seems mad as a wheel, hell-bent, grinding our most precious public institutions to dust.

I do not see technical and further education as a commodity to be consumed but rather as a public good, and an asset in the hands and minds of the whole nation.

Submitted by

Janet Dyne of Alexandria

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Mary Jane Beach, of winston hills make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 62 years old and work as a counsellor, in the postcode of 2153.

I work in mental health and refer many clients on to tafe, it is such a wonderful opportunity for people who have not often had opportunity.

We also have David Liptak from Richmond tafe come out and talk to the clients at St John of God. it is such a positive experience.

It gives many people an opportunity they have never had, sometimes clients who did not do well at school, but can achieve well at tafe.

A father I was working with who could not read went to tafe to learn, it was so inspiring for himself and his sons. changed generations

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means. the possibility of a life one can be proud of...

I do know some clients who have devoted their lives to this service and are now under threat

I know there are going to be fewer courses and therefore fewer opportunities

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because all people should have the opportunity to extend themselves, not just the wealthy

Submitted by

Mary Jane Beach of Winston Hills

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Sue Young, of Dulwich Hill make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 60 years old and work as a student, in the postcode of 2203.

I left school in England at 16 (equivalent to end of year 11). I came to Australia aged 21. At 25 I attended North Sydney TAFE part time at night and studied for the HSC over two years. I was able to go to Macquarie as a provisional mature age student and went on to study for four years gaining a BADipEd. Without TAFE I would not have had this opportunity. Until my retirement I worked full time (and for short periods part time after having children) for non government organisations and in the public service. Last year I enrolled in the Diploma of Fine Arts at Meadowbank TAFE. I have enrolled again this year although it is a different course under very different fee requirements.

TAFE offers a wide choice of courses for industries, apprenticeships, self improvement. Up to now it has been accessible to students on low incomes, is flexible

and innovative. Students with disabilities and those from non English speaking backgrounds are catered for. As a national training body (although that has already changed for Victoria and South Australia) TAFE offers continuity and consistency of course content and standards. In the area of Fine Arts, teachers are practicing artists. The NSW State government's recent Creative Industries Taskforce identified art training as critical to the future economic growth of NSW.

Without TAFE I wouldn't have gone to university and I probably wouldn't have made the decision to study Visual Arts. I would not have had the confidence to apply to do a university fine arts course, and I also wanted to study part time.

Although I don't live in regional NSW I am aware that some colleges are no longer offering courses in the visual arts. Others have made them so expensive that many students would be unable to afford to enrol. Even if VET Fee Help is available, young students who may want to progress from TAFE to a university degree (one of the transformative roles of TAFE is providing a pathway for students to university) could find themselves with both VET Fee Help and HECS debts. Not a great way to start a career as an artist.

The course I am doing has increased in cost from approx \$1400 pa (whether full or part time) to \$4040 for part time (max 9 hours). I understand this is based on full cost recovery including infrastructure costs. However there is no flexibility and I know of one student with two small children who is only able to take one subject this year. she still has to pay \$4040 (+20% if getting VET Fee Help). Last week two teaching staff were advised they were being made redundant. At the end of last year two part time

technical staff left, one not having his contract renewed. Despite the students now paying full fees, there have been shortages of materials, lights in classrooms are not replaced promptly, toilets have not been kept stocked with soap and paper towels, cleaning fluid containers have not been refilled in some of the art studios, the extraction fan for recycled turps cleaning unit for brushes in one of the painting studios was not working for at least a week. All OH&S issues. Hopefully this is not a deliberate strategy to demoralise students and reduce enrolments next year.

The government's cuts to TAFE have impacted Fine Arts affecting staffing levels, cost, course content and required hours of tuition. TAFE fine arts courses have offered flexibility, a pathway to university if that is what students want and ongoing training for practicing artists. Many are concerned that what has happened to Fine Arts this year is what awaits other TAFE courses from next year.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it provides educational opportunities for the whole community that is relevant, is affordable and provides pathways to further education if wanted. I strongly urge the government to note the NSW State government's Creative Industries Taskforce recommendation that funding should be reinstated to TAFE Fine Arts courses, as the arts and artists will continue to be a vital and important part of future economic growth for NSW and the whole of Australia.

Submitted by

Sue Young of Dulwich Hill

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Alison Clark, of Mont Albert make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 33 years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 3127.

I went to TAFE directly after high school having not yet grasped the study skills, research skills or focus required to achieve the TER score required to get me into my desired University course of kindergarten teaching.

I studied Biological Sciences at Swinbourne TAFE, where I regained my confidence and developed the study skills I lacked. My scores at TAFE allowed me to get into Science at Monash University, and after graduating I spent 10 years as a laboratory technician and later scientist in medical pathology.

(I have since returned to University and studied my Graduate Diploma of Education).

TAFE provides small class sizes and lacks the competition and pressure of the VCE. The small sizes allowed for teachers to know you and "be on your side" while

specialised classes develop research skills, writing, typing and formatting skills. My Biological Science course also taught me the practical day-to-day skills and techniques used in a modern laboratory, giving me a competitive edge in the job market.

Without TAFE, I would never had an opportunity to go to University. TAFE provided the Universities another set of results to consider, other than my substandard VCE scores.

TAFE provides opportunities to people to achieve their dreams of a stimulating job and the opportunity for further academic achievement.

Submitted by

Alison Clark of Mont Albert

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Ariana Snoswell, of Mylor make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 17 years old and work as a student, in the postcode of 5000.

I am currently I costume student at the Adelaide College of the Arts, where we are soon to lose our custom built costume studio.

TAFE teaches only the specific skills that are required in your chosen profession and leaves you ready to join the workforce.

I chose to study Costume at TAFE over Engineering at the University of Adelaide, despite having the ATAR to go to university because it is something that I am truly interested in. If we lose our custom built studio and my career in this field is jeopardised, I may have to rethink my decision.

I do not attend a regional TAFE, but regardless the campus on which I attend is still experiencing many cuts due to lack of funds.

As said above, budget cuts are costing the TAFE campus I attend to lose its custom built costume studio in which I study.

The loss of the costume studio will affect all of the students as it will induce a loss of certain units in our curriculum due to inadequate facilities to undertake them. This will make us unprepared for a job in this field. Additionally due to the moving of costume students to a different campus we will not be able to learn to work with and network with other arts students, such as actors and dancers.

If the costume studio is removed my course, and therefore my career will be harmed and I will have to reconsider a career in a different area, thus having wasted my time trying to undertake the course.

Submitted by

Ariana Snoswell of Mylor

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Martin Chestnutt, of Girrawheen make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 41 years old and work as a Boilermaker, in the postcode of 6058.

I achieved my trades certificate in 2011.

A well trained Australian work force is a commodity Australia can ill afford to deny. Australia's future is dependant on having a workforce that can meet our needs and not rely on overseas 457 visa workers. While foreign workers may be required in some circumstances, I have witnessed some, but I must stress not all would not meet Australian Tafe standards.

Tafe has allowed me to qualify my skills and know am able to earn a tradesman wage and not that of a Trades assistant.

I have recently completed (on the 9/04/2013) a welding competency that cost \$1400. Before the Western Australian state government budget cuts to tafe this was less than \$400. To do this same course privately would have cost nearly \$4000. The Tafe I attended have had to cease these after hours courses because there has been an increase in apprentice enrolments, but no increase to man hours to meet the demand. So much for affordable Tafe courses, where the low socio economic amongst us can maybe get the money together to do the welding course I did at the \$400 price. Add \$1000 to that and it really makes it difficult for people to take the initiative to improve their own lives.

The Tafe lecturers have had their over time strictly monitored and as I have previously stated to accommodate more apprentices during the day and with no extra funding have had to cease after hour lessons.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is a backstop for people to improve their financial situation. Affordable Tafe helps to get people into the work force and off unemployment. In order to rely on our own people and not have to rely on foreign workers we need an affordable Tafe system.

Submitted by

Martin Chestnutt of Girrawheen

Tuesday 16th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Charlotte Gough, of Rockingham make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

The SSTUWA Submission to the Federal Enquiry

ï€

1. The development of skills in the Australian economy;

i) provides a forward-thinking work force

ii) provides an innovative work force

iii) provides a reflective work force

iv) provides an enterprising work force

v) provides a fair-minded work force

vi) provides a quality work force

2. The development of opportunities for Australians to improve themselves and increase their life and employment prospects;

i) gives a permanent job for all teachers those who have already worked as

casual/contract teachers in TAFE for up to 5 years, thereby removing ongoing financial hardship for these teachers

- ii) gives permanency to all teachers who have worked at TAFE over 1 year
- iii) gives all teachers including casual teachers the right to the implement pay scale
- iv) gives basic workers rights back to casual/contract teachers, pays for salary losses caused by management's funding decisions that has cut their work hours
- v) gives contract and casual teachers job security to get home-loans

3. The delivery of services and programs to support regions, communities and disadvantaged individuals to access training and skills and through them a pathway to employment;

- i) sees an end to closures of classes
- ii) sees an end to teachers losing face to face time with students
- iii) sees students having reasonable access to resources and teachers
- iv) sees no limitations on class numbers
- v) sees staff and student morale for the future at its highest level

4. The operation of a competitive training market; and

- i) focussed on the quality delivery of service
- ii) focussed on the welfare of students' present and future
- iii) focussed on the well-being of teachers' present and future
- iv) focussed on developing a high-level of communication with staff
- v) focussed on the commitment to equity for all stake holders in TAFE

5. Those jurisdictions in which State Governments have announced funding decisions which may impact on their operation and viability.

- i) has a negative impact on workers' rights for all teachers and staff at TAFE, especially casual/contract staff being valued by management

- ii) has a negative impact on the valuing of teachers' commitment to their workplace, especially casuals/contract staff by management
- iii) has a negative impact on decisions made by management in the best interests of staff and students and only on their budget limitations
- iv) has a negative impact on management not only listening to but also acting on where staff identifies the need for change in TAFE
- v) has a negative impact on the fair treatment and respect of staff and students by management due to lack of funding

Submitted by

Charlotte Gough of Rockingham

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Lou Baxter, of NTh Fitzroy make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 64 years old and work as a secondary teacher, in the postcode of 3068.

Many of the students I taught went onto TAFE courses. The practical skills they learnt helped them find better jobs, just like actually doing the courses kept their lives 'on track' through giving them structure in their lives as they learnt.

Government run TAFE courses are vital for a skilled workforce and they also help students at risk to maintain structure and learning in their lives as they slowly mature. TAFE often gives at risk students a second chance, as well as helping those students who are already well focused on workforce skills a pathway to success.

Furthermore I have been disgusted by the stories - both those reported in the mass media and those I have heard from friends- about the many poor and uncontrolled 'courses' run by private profiteers whose interest is not in educating students but in

merely making money by 'selling' what can only be described as dodgy 'qualifications'.

Many of the students i have taught have been helped by TAFE courses.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes.

1. Stories from the mass media
2. Stories from ex-students
3. Stories from friends who have enrolled in private courses so they can move into different work areas and who say the course is just a joke.

Haven't noticed that much but I know some students and parents who have been worried by increased fees.

Course and job losses seem to have occurred.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because without a well funded TAFE system many students will lose direction and control in their lives, as they won't be able to increase their skill levels and hopefully get jobs.

Submitted by

Lou Baxter of NTh Fitzroy

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Brett Campbell, of Taree make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 43 years old and work as a intensiva care paramedic, in the postcode of 2430.

I studied year 10 maths in 1987 at TAFE to make me competitive to attain an apprenticeship. I also completed the TAFE component of an office traineeship in that year. In 1988 i commenced an apprenticeship as a first class welder/boilermaker/metal fabricator and completed the three year TAFE component including coming first and receiving the Metal trades industry award. I then also completed post trade pressure vessel welding courses. When the trade modules were introduced my then employer paid for me to complete the necessary fitting and machinist trade modules at night. These courses certainly made me a far better tradesperson and gave me more employment opportunities.

Strong practical skills for our workforce who actually do the physical work, empowers

them to do better and also affords us all the opportunity of lifelong learning.

I needed to better understand maths as I had a poor result in intermediate maths in the year 10 school certificate, I not only gained a far better understanding which afforded me the opportunity to become a tradesperson, I have also gone on and completed an undergraduate degree in industrial relations in the grade of distinction which I also completed some subjects that required significant mathematical aptitude.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means that people who do not want to or are unable to go to university have other very practical options.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because from not only my own empirical experiences but those of other people I know we as a society have benefitted greatly from what we have learnt and how we have put it into practice.

Submitted by

Brett Campbell of Taree

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Paul Boys, of Korumburra make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 40 years old and work as a Teacher, in the postcode of 3950.

I have worked in the VOCED sector for 12 years in both the private and TAFE sectors. Study has been integral to my personal and professional development allowing me the opportunity to raise my family and actively engage in my local community. Throughout the past 15 years, I have completed numerous qualifications that have provided me with the scope to maintain currency and develop my skills within a contemporary teaching environment.

TAFE is for all Australians whether they be 15 or 70 years of age. TAFE is not just about skills, it is also about the engagement of individuals in a social construct that will assist them to develop or further enhance their capabilities with their local communities. TAFE is critical to the success of regional communities throughout

Australia and it provides a vehicle that allows businesses and communities to work together for the collective benefit of all its members.

I could provide hundreds of examples of the fantastic outcomes that TAFE has provided for my local community. From young people who have not engaged with any form of social networks to others who have been marginalised through dependency issues or those who have enhanced their skills and seen the benefits that this growth has brought to both their personal and professional lives. TAFE is about inclusivity and access for all but this is being jeopardised in the current round of funding cuts and restructures. I love the fact that being in a small regional community allows me to see my graduated students on a regular basis engaging in productive and worthwhile employment to the benefit of all within the local area.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means that communities have the capability to grow and develop skills that will allow them to meet the future challenges of a contemporary society. TAFE is also integral to the very fabric of these communities as they work with local councils, job service providers, community agencies and social support groups to enhance opportunity for all persons who reside within these communities.

Having worked in the private and public sector there is no comparison between the standards and application of quality between the two. TAFE puts outcomes and quality first whereas private colleges are profit driven and focused on nothing more than maintaining their registration to further enhance their access to government funded training dollars. The increase in the past five years of private training colleges has been in stark contrast to the decline in traditional TAFE programs since the introduction of a "demand driven training sector" under the guise of the previous state government's policy titled "Securing jobs for your future". This has seen an explosion of

poor quality training and questionable recruitment and engagement practices that are now beginning to filter into the TAFE sector as it is actively competing with these colleges for traditional government funding.

I work in a small regional TAFE that had its staff numbers reduce from 10 EFT in 2012 to 2.3 in 2013. The impact has seen a reduction in the number of programs on offer and a marked increase in the workloads of those staff who were fortunate enough to survive the budget cuts. The cuts have seen the following programs cease to be delivered: Hospitality; Retail; and Business Services, which were all identified by local government administrators as key skill areas for the future growth of my local community. This has led to training being facilitated that is focused on maximising profit rather than meeting skill needs within the local community.

As mentioned before, programs have been cut, fees have increased across the board and people who are looking to re-engage with study have been denied access due to financial and limited study options in their defined skill area. I have had first hand experience of students who have been distressed when presented with course fees that are well beyond their means and do not recognise their drive and determination to break the cycle of dependence that they have experienced since falling on difficult times. There are also numerous examples of working mothers who wish to further their skills being restricted access to government funded places due to them completing courses that are often 30 years old and therefore rendering them ineligible for a subsidised training course. Finally, the quality and integrity of training is constantly under pressure as we are forced to deliver more with significantly reduced funding and administrative support.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need the sector to be strong in order to allow for our children and those who wish to up skill

or retrain to access quality training that has their interests at the forefront of all decisions rather than profit and compliance. I urge the government to look closely at the impacts that these cuts have had and also to recognise that a strong public sector training base is critical to the future needs of regional communities throughout Victoria

Submitted by

Paul Boys of Korumburra

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Chwi Teo, of Alexandria make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am years old and work as a , in the postcode of 2015.

Submitted by

Chwi Teo of Alexandria

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Stephen O'Brien, of Newcastle make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 57 years old and work as a Librarian, in the postcode of 2302.

After school I did an arts degree but it didn't qualify me for much so I took a manual job in industry. However, I later studied at TAFE to gain more practical skills - in particular how to better understand computers. I didn't want to do a full degree course in programming - which was the basic option at that time at university. TAFE however, provided that a good basic skills which then encouraged me to return to university, retrain and qualify for the job I do now. I later went back to TAFE specifically to upgrade my workplace training skills.

TAFE, in my experience, offers more blended, practical and varied levels of skills by workplace experts.

After the heavy industry I used to work in closed down I noticed that a lot of my old workmates were at TAFE. They wanted to get recognition for their on the job skills or to go into new directions. TAFE provided these workers, who were smart but not necessarily academic, with a second chance.

I live in a regional city and I am disappointed that TAFE is having its courses cut. The Newcastle ART School for example. The art students have been the lifeblood of an inner city that has had to reinvent itself. Yet despite their enthusiasm and creativity their courses have been cut. Politicians need to see beyond coal and being able to dig it out is not the only skill the economy needs.

I don't trust private providers to deliver what they promise. I know someone who was promised a schools based traineeship by a private provider but this promise didn't eventuate. I was disappointed that the private provider created false expectations and doubt that TAFE would be so unprofessional.

TAFE do a good job but budget cuts are undoing generations of good work. The Newcastle art school, for example. has been cut in half. Private providers are here today gone tomorrow but TAFE stays.

The NSW Government has been extremely short sighted in defunding art courses. Three full time 3 teachers lost their jobs at the local TAFE art school and another 25 teachers and support staff had their hours cut to a bare minimum or to zero. This means more skilled, creative and talented people will be forced to leave Newcastle.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded. TAFE provides an option for kids who are not necessarily academic. It doesn't stop them going onto further study later. TAFE is part of our national heritage with virtually every town

having its TAFE. This system was set up because it worked for regional Australia.

Submitted by

Stephen O'Brien of Newcastle

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Leanne Carroll, of Upwey make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 49 years old and work as a Medical transcriptionist, in the postcode of 3158.

TAFE is a vital part of our education system. It's self evident. If we don't train people for the trades, who will do that work in the future? The creeping privatisation of TAFE courses is a huge concern and I would hate to see it go the way of universities where higher education is increasingly only for those who can afford it. As it is, the massive increase in course fees prohibits older people retraining to upskill, the fees involved once you've done one TAFE certificate are now prohibitive and similar to uni courses. As a result, my partner is unable to continue with his TAFE education because to do another diploma would cost an amount more than three times what he paid for the first one. So he's stuck in the same job, unable to move because we can't afford him to do

another course. No incentive whatsoever.

We are so grateful to TAFE and the VCAL/VET program as otherwise my son would have had to leave school after Year 10 as VCE simply wasn't for him. VCAL & VET offer him the opportunity to continue his education, get his Year 12, and train in a skill (he's doing engineering) so he will be able to get an apprenticeship and a good job. The educational model offered by VCAL suits him so much better and the VET sector is fantastic. I simply do not comprehend cuts to this vital resource for students.

My son entered the TAFE system this year and it's been fantastic. The teachers and staff we have dealt with have all been excellent. However, we are seeing first hand the effect of the vicious cuts to TAFE. My son has a workplace placement coming up, as part of his VCAL/VET course. Naturally there is paperwork. Someone has to sign the documentation on behalf of the school or he can't start. Sounds simple right? Wrong. It has taken three weeks (three weeks!) to find out who can sign these forms. I've been round in circles and no one knows. Why is something so simple now so complex? Because there are no longer any Student Coordinators. The people who did these jobs, the oft-mocked "admin staff" have been retrenched. But the jobs they did haven't gone away. They are still there. Forms still need to be signed, students still need someone to help them with administrative things. But there's no one to do that any more. No one knows who has the authority to sign such documentation. It would be laughable if it weren't so very real. My son's teachers and his VET trainer have all done their best and have been apologetic and embarrassed at this state of affairs but I have let them know that I do not blame them at all. I know that all these educators are now having to do not only their own important job of teaching and training our young people, but also the jobs of those who were deemed no longer necessary. This is

detracting and distracting them from their core job of teaching. And that is wrong. Teachers teach. They shouldn't have to do all the backstage admin as well. But they are. My son is due to start this Friday at his work placement. In the end, all the forms got sent to me and I have had to take them to the employer for signatures and now I have to take them back to the school in the hope they have found someone with the authority to sign them. It's farcical and wrong. It's now Wednesday and I'm determined that my son will start his work placement on Friday but for this to happen, I am having to do all the work that a student coordinator should be doing. What does that say about how the system is running? TAFE is a vital resource for teaching and training and it needs admin staff and more teachers. No one is ever surprised when Liberal governments slash education funding, it's what they do. But it's wrong and I will support TAFE in any way I can and make sure as many as possible know what is going on and how the vicious cuts are being felt on every level and have very real effects. Thank you.

I met a young girl at our local supermarket who had been at the Swinburne Wantirna TAFE campus. Her whole course has been cut from that campus and moved to Hawthorn. She and her class now have to travel to Hawthorn for their course. This young girl lives in Wandin. Travelling to Wantirna was long enough but now to Hawthorn? Ludicrous.

I also have a friend whose daughter was doing VCAL at a high school and her VET subject was at Lilydale TAFE. The course and campus were closed and all those students were not given an alternative. Their high school didn't have classes scheduled for them because they were expected to be at TAFE so what ended up happening was an entire class having one, sometimes two, days off each week because they had no VET classes and nothing scheduled for them at their school. Absolutely disgraceful.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because everyone knows where our tradies are trained - TAFEs. And without tradies, who will build the houses, plumb the bathrooms and the pools, fix the cars? Academia isn't for everyone and there's no such thing as tech schools any more (another Liberal government initiative! That worked well didn't it?). The privatisation of many of the training companies for VET is also terrible; open to roting as well as making it even more unachievable for many to pay the often exorbitant prices charged. Government has a duty to education and public education funding is vital. The Victorian government gives millions to things like the terrible SRE program, where taxpayers' money is thrown at Access Ministries to go into our secular state primary schools and proselytise. A disgraceful and scary state of affairs. How about redirecting that funding away from the zealots and into education where it belongs?

TAFE has my full support and I urge the current government to show some humanity and acknowledge that what has been done was wrong on every level and to reinstate funding and in particular, student coord services. I want my son's teachers to teach him, not have to run around doing administrative stuff too.

Submitted by

Leanne Carroll of Upwey

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, David Falconer, of Wyong make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 48 years old and work as a Purchasing Officer, in the postcode of 2259.

When I finished school I was fortunate enough to complete an apprenticeship as a boilermaker. As did William McKell, a long time before I did. My apprenticeship was in a local power station and I studied at Belmont Technical College in NSW. This is now part of the TAFE system. It was very well run. I had to do remedial mathematics and to my surprise I found it easier to learn maths from my boilermaking teacher than I did in school. These days I read in my local paper about plans to try and establish a training centre locally to train apprentices and trainees. This may sound like a good idea, but I have to ask why replicate and duplicate what we already have. The TAFE system should be maintained or expanded, not allowed to wither or be disabled, and replaced by privately run money making enterprises. The training and experience I received was top notch. My teachers had a wealth of experience they had worked in

BHP steel mills, Canadian oil pipelines, Aussie power stations, Hawker De Havilland, so I received the benefit of this knowledge and experience as it was shared.

After I completed my apprenticeship I completed further studies in welding, and later a Certificate IV in Frontline Management. This was of great benefit to me and gave me a good insight into not only managing people who I work with, but assisting in managing business.

TAFEs are able to impart knowledge and share a wealth of knowledge from people with different backgrounds so that students learn about aspects of their field that training in just one place would be unable to deliver. They are owned and run by the government for the people, and not simply for profit.

My brother undertook a course of study some time ago as his industry was regulated and required requalification. He was a security officer. The place where he studied and paid his money too was not a registered training provider at the time he did his course. As a result he paid money for a worthless course and indeed his job was in jeopardy as he was no longer qualified to do the duties he was carrying out for years, fortunately for him he had years of experience and was able to obtain recognition of prior learning, but what about new entrants. People with little or no experience would have wasted their time and money as my brother did, but have no hope of getting a qualification. As it was it took quite a fair bit of trouble to show that he had the necessary qualifications and experience. A properly run institution would never have made so much trouble for a student. TAFE is a quality institution. I hope for all the industries and fields of study for the students it serves that it is always there for the future of society as it is extremely beneficial for them in years to come, as it was for me.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because peoples

training, their jobs, their futures, hopes and dreams depend on a reliable cost effective place of learning and training is essential. Leaving private centres to fill in any deficiencies is simply allowing private companies to take money from people and make a profit from them with very questionable levels of service and quality.

Submitted by

David Falconer of Wyong

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Andreas Dalman, of Earlwood make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 42 years old and work as a AV Specialist/Project Manager, in the postcode of 2006.

I trained at a TAFE institution the Centre for the Performing Arts (now AIT Arts) in South Australia many years ago graduating in Technical Theatre Production (Sound/Lighting/Stage Management). This training which included a strong practical component provided the grounding for my current skills and instilled in me a strong work ethic.

The practical nature of TAFE education prepares individuals for working life and provides tangible skills which can be built upon and used in multiple industries.

It gave me a first chance.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I attended TAFE in Adelaide and eventually those skills traveled me interstate and overseas doing work I enjoyed. I now work in Sydney in a related industry. The lessons learned during my TAFE education are still relevant to me today (some 20 years later!)

I have heard reports about this but have not any personal stories.

I am aware budget cuts have been occurring to TAFE and I believe this to be a poor policy decision due to the benefits TAFE education has for individuals seeking skills to make them employable.

Funding cuts always affect the quality and quantity of the services being provided. There is only so much streamlining that can be done without affecting the service output.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE offers practical opportunities for people wishing to upskill and increase their chances of employment.

Submitted by

Andreas Dalman of Earlwood

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Desma Noble, of Ringwood Nth make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I left school at 16 in country Victoria. At 47 I am now a Jeweller, Gemmologist, Diamond technologist, business owner, employer, part time TAFE teacher, National Councillor of The Gold and Silversmiths Guild of Australia and mother of two teenage boys.

Tafe has enabled me to:

• Do my apprenticeship in a small but highly skilled craft, I know I am a world class craftsman.

• Go back and do further education part-time , to advance my career, while still working to support myself.

• Share my knowledge and passion for my craft with other creative people. This is the most incredibly rewarding experience, and has rekindled my love for my trade.

• Develop the skills to become a leader and spokesperson for my industry.

I know TAFE makes a life changing difference to many peoples lives. Most of my students are mature age and retraining. Every week one of them tells me that our jewellery TAFE course has enriched and changed their life in a positive way forever. TAFE is the only way to deliver this high quality of education. Having personally experienced training from a private RTO, I know the training was delivered in a sped up sub standard way that was focused only on ticking the boxes of the curriculum rather than learning and knowledge.

Many people like myself and my students need to be in the world earning an income and don't have the means to go straight onto further education from high school. Only TAFE can offer this.

Many people are more suited to the TAFE option of higher education as they are more practical or need more vocationally relevant training, rather than the more academic stream of university.

To my industry TAFE cuts mean the complete disappearance of any training options for jewellery making. On behalf of The Gold and Silversmiths Guild of Australia I have researched thoroughly and our Advance Diploma stream has lost funding, and the 'user pays' system will 'price it out' of the market. Our Apprenticeship option is apparently being closed due to low numbers. This is a travesty, as our entire trade will be lost in Australia!

This means a future where there will be no-one around with the skill to repair a much loved family heirloom. When a couple become engaged they won't be able to get their imported ring resized to fit without sending back to the maker overseas.

Can you imagine an Australia where people can't sit down with their trusted jeweller and ask for something handcrafted to their own personal taste and know it will be done locally by someone who cares enough to fulfil a dream?

We are currently training craftspeople who are world class artisans, who have the depth of skill and knowledge to create unique personal items that are hand wrought with rare skills that may be ancient or cutting edge discoveries. The social ideology that we value these unique skills and artistic expression for the sake of it, is what gives our society its culture. If our TAFE system continues to be decimated we will become a nation lacking intellect, knowledge, employment and culture.

The disappearance of TAFE campuses, like Swinburne from Lilydale, Vic, has created an inequity for disadvantaged people. I personally know two mums who were well into their degrees and then couldn't finish because the campus was closed and if they travelled further away, they couldn't collect their kids from school. I know two people with disabilities who cannot get to campuses further away, so have given up their courses. I don't want to live in an Australia that makes these choices for people who are already disadvantaged.

Finally TAFE cuts make me terrified as a mother of teenagers, that my children will not have vital educational and vocational options once they leave high school.

PLEASE FUND THIS VITAL RESOURCE! PLEASE!

Desma Noble

PO Box 2261, Ringwood Nth

Vic 3134

I left school at 16 in country Victoria. At 47 I am now a Jeweller, Gemmologist, Diamond technologist, business owner, employer, part time TAFE teacher, National Councillor of the Gold and Silversmiths Guild of Australia and mother of two teenage boys.

Tafe has enabled me to:

â€¢ Do my apprenticeship in a small but highly skilled craft, I know I am a world class craftsperson.

â€¢ Go back and do further education part-time , to advance my career, while still working to support myself.

â€¢ Share my knowledge and passion for my craft with other creative people. This is the most incredibly rewarding experience, and has rekindled my love for my trade.

â€¢ Develop the skills to become a leader and spokesperson for my industry.

I know TAFE makes a life changing difference to many peoples lives. Most of my students are mature age and retraining. Every week one of them tells me that our jewellery TAFE course has enriched and changed their life in a positive way forever. TAFE is the only way to deliver this high quality of education. Having personally

experienced training from a private RTO, I know the training was delivered in a sped up sub standard way that was focused only on ticking the boxes of the curriculum rather than learning and knowledge.

Many people like myself and my students need to be in the world earning an income and don't have the means to go straight onto further education from high school. Only TAFE can offer this.

Many people are more suited to the TAFE option of higher education as they are more practical or need more vocationally relevant training, rather than the more academic stream of university.

To my industry TAFE cuts mean the complete disappearance of any training options for jewellery making. On behalf of The Gold and Silversmiths Guild of Australia I have researched thoroughly and our Advance Diploma stream has lost funding, and the 'user pays' system will 'price it out' of the market. Our Apprenticeship option is apparently being closed due to low numbers. This is a travesty, as our entire trade will be lost in Australia!

This means a future where there will be no-one around with the skill to repair a much loved family heirloom. When a couple become engaged they won't be able to get their imported ring resized to fit without sending back to the maker overseas.

Can you imagine an Australia where people can't sit down with their trusted jeweller and ask for something handcrafted to their own personal taste and know it will be done locally by someone who cares enough to fulfil a dream?

We are currently training craftspeople who are world class artisans, who have the

depth of skill and knowledge to create unique personal items that are hand wrought with rare skills that may be ancient or cutting edge discoveries. The social ideology that we value these unique skills and artistic expression for the sake of it, is what gives our society its culture. If our TAFE system continues to be decimated we will become a nation lacking intellect, knowledge, employment and culture.

The disappearance of TAFE campuses, like Swinburne from Lilydale, Vic, has created an inequity for disadvantaged people. I personally know two mums who were well into their degrees and then couldn't finish because the campus was closed and if they travelled further away, they couldn't collect their kids from school. I know two people with disabilities who cannot get to campuses further away, so have given up their courses. I don't want to live in an Australia that makes these choices for people who are already disadvantaged.

Desma Noble

PO Box 2261, Ringwood Nth

Vic 3134

Submitted by

Desma Noble of Ringwood Nth

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Frederick Dvoracek, of Pearcedale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 59 years old and work as a Teacher, in the postcode of 3199.

As a full time teacher in T.A.F.E. for over 25 years I have seen new entrants to the work force given the process to confidently achieve completion of Apprenticeship training and go on to be employable in there chosen field/trade. Then they return for further training so as to become self employed with many going on to be employers.

T.A.F.E. is a uniform approach to skilling the Australian workforce with networks and work groups from around Australia meeting regularly to ensure standards are maintained.

The standard set at T.A.F.E. is not comprimised by profit making as in the private sector where teaching/training has been set up as a money making exercise.

The availability of local Colleges, purpose built for providing industry needed training is

what T.A.F.E. has always been about.

Many times a Student that has floundered at school, has been able to attend a pre vocational/ pre apprentice course that gives them both the direction and confidence to enable them to enter the work force

Living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means opportunity.

Not having the same opportunity available can only mean disadvantage and hardship for the students that have been ignored.

There is certainly evidence that confirms that teaching carried out in my trade area of Plumbing by private providers hasn't been up to standard.

Students are not given the same extent of both practical training and theoretical study that gives them the depth of knowledge to be capable tradesmen. Students attending private providers to study plumbing apprenticeship training are disadvantaged.

Courses are expected to run with less class hours and larger class sizes.

Student fees have risen sharply, materials and resources have been cut back.

Less staff to in teaching areas has dropped the standard of service to the students.

Larger class sizes and reduction of class time spent with students has also disadvantaged students. this is more so those who are lacking in ability and require more teacher help.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the future of our workforce is dependant on a well funded yet accountable T.A.F.E. . A TAFE sector that has proven it is up to the job now needs refunding and setting up for the future.

This being a national system needs the federal funding to ensure national success.

Submitted by

Frederick Dvoracek of Pearcedale

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Luke Haydon, of Douglas make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 33 years old and work as a TAFE Teacher, in the postcode of 4814.

I am a current TAFE teacher in the the area of engineering (boilermaking). I take my job seriously to ensure that we continue to provide quality tradespersons in the state of QLD and Australia.

The TAFE college that I am part of contributes to this through quality teaching and training. The teachers that I work with have excellent industry experience and we have the necessary facilities and equipment to simulate the workplace to ensure quality training.

I have had many students that until they have acquired an apprenticeship were achieving little and not applying themsleves. Recently I had a student who was close

to losing his apprenticeship, however with my assistance both at TAFE and on the job he is now one of the best apprentices this particular workshop has.

The courses will still be offered however the quality of training may be overlooked due to lack of funding such as material costs etc. It is getting harder to compete with private providers because of the 'tick and flick' nature in which they operate.

More often than this country needs. They don't even give them practical assessment and yet these students are deemed competent. I have students with employers that have tried private providers and the students have requested they be sent back to TAFE as they were not trained at all in some instances. More worrying is that we have had students who have attended these private providers for a period, then have come to TAFE when they have changed employers, and have asked us to re-enrol in competencies that they have already been graded for because they can't perform the skills required for that particular competency.

Yes. The QLD TAFE system is currently under review due to the change in government in 2012. Unfortunately there seems to be a real push to eventually privatise TAFE under this government.

Less money for materials, which in turn means less material for training.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because this country has always provided quality tradespersons to be proud of with excellent safety records. Keep giving more funding to private providers and our proud tradition in quality tradespersons, that is an envy of other countries, will cease to exist.

Submitted by

Luke Haydon of Douglas

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Tim Hartnett, of MONT ALBERT NORTH make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I currently work as a VCAL teacher at the Croydon Campus of Swinburne TAFE in the Department of Youth and Community. This particular VCAL program caters for marginalised youth from the outer eastern suburbs who have fallen out of the mainstream schooling system. Simply put, if it were not for the existence of this program, these children and young adults would not be engaged in either employment or education and would have few prospects for their future.

In my time as a teacher at Swinburne, I have seen many students succeed in ways which would not be possible in a mainstream school. The VCAL program within the TAFE system offers a nurturing and supportive environment for marginalised students at a critical time in their development.

However, since the Baillieu cuts to TAFE, support services to these students and

vocational course options have been dramatically reduced. The overall atmosphere on campus is of a system which is being deliberately run down pending further campus closures. It is difficult for both students and staff to work in such a demoralising environment.

TAFE programs are important both to fill gaps in the provision of education and to provide skilled workers for the future labour market. This is a sector which should absolutely be protected.

Submitted by

Tim Hartnett of MONT ALBERT NORTH

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Jonathan Brown, of Marrickville make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

My name is Jonathan Brown. I am 48 years old, and live in Marrickville, NSW. I work as a teacher of English as a second language. My wife, who is Spanish immigrated to Australia three years ago. She is an accomplished professional in her own country in the area of TV journalism and multimedia.

As a newly- arrived permanent resident living in Sydney, she needed to explore all employment options. In doing so, she came across some very accessible training options through TAFE NSW and completed a Certificate 4 in Project Management. She worked hard, did very well, and now has a current document of proficiency undertaken locally that has helped her seek work with local companies, pursue further business study, and launch her own business. It has empowered her enormously.

This opportunity would have been impossible to come by if it weren't for TAFE.

TAFE has acted as an effective Launchpad for her independent, ongoing employment here in Sydney. As a result, it has saved the government thousands in potential welfare benefits and job centre costs, and freed up those resources for others who are more needy. It really is a case of "Give someone a fish, you feed them for a day. Teach them to fish, and you feed them for a lifetime."

I am currently considering business and marine studies at TAFE in a mid-life career change, I'm heartened that in our society, our country, the fundamental ideal of a fair go still manifests in the form of accessible education for all.

A good friend of mine, has been working as a TAFE teacher in the arts area for a number of years, and is now watching the erosion of resources for students that he teaches. In addition, teachers with high-level tertiary qualifications have positions that are being opened up to those with a certificate 4 in the same field.

Effectively there is a dumbing down of staff, and an increasing loss of motivation on the part of those who are qualified to teach elsewhere, but have dedicated themselves to TAFE as they value the inspiration that comes from providing learning opportunities that their students would otherwise not have access to.

Those that want to keep their jobs, even for the short term, have to re-train to gain a qualification that is significantly lower than the one (or several) that they already have! This is not just a monumental waste of time for them, it is a human resources disaster.

I'm thoroughly dis-heartened at the prospect that in a country as wealthy as ours, this fundamental tenet of a fair go via access to affordable, practical education, is considered no longer affordable or desirable.

TAFE is for those who can have fulfilling, self-sustaining jobs with the right training and education who can't get that any other way. It feeds the workforce with workers that have practical immediately deliverable skills based on their interests and ultimately their strengths-those who might otherwise be forced into any work for the sake of it, with all the problems and economic costs that result.

Please, I urge all of you in the committee in the strongest way possible, to think about those who will be left behind, if TAFE no longer provides the skills training opportunities it has done for so many up until now. There is no viable alternative, and the economic and social costs of the failure of TAFE to provide these opportunities from here on in, will be profound.

Submitted by

Jonathan Brown of Marrickville

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, selina hunter, of rose park make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 28 years old and work as a preschool teacher , in the postcode of 5000.

Submitted by

selina hunter of rose park

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Chris Hayden, of Gunnedah make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 26 years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2380.

Almost all of my friends, upon finishing school, chose to undertake further study. For some university was too academic or their chosen field was not offered. Several of my friends attended TAFE and really enjoyed the learning environment. TAFE served as the platform for my mates to obtain skills and qualifications necessary for employment.

These TAFE qualifications need to remain valued by employers because they do provide a quality service to young Australians who want to work. I am worried cuts to TAFE funding will undermine this form of education in the eyes of prospective employers.

I have also seen many students, from the high school that I teach at, pursue TAFE

courses and love it. In my professional experience I have found that normal mainstream schooling does not suit all students. For many students, TAFE offers courses and skills that directly relate to their interests. TAFE can provide a sense of independence and channel the passions of these students. Also, learning with older people also helps to develop a mature approach to their studies. Many local industries offer scholarships through TAFE as further incentive to pursue this valued path of education. It is important to keep these young people engaged in learning, as we know better education generally leads to higher paid work and job satisfaction. It is also imperative for our country that all young people are productive and feel valued.

TAFE also provides an alternate route for people to complete their HSC, in some cases after having a child, which made the logistics of education extremely difficult. Others simply prefer the TAFE setting to the school environment for a myriad of reasons. This second chance is appreciated by many young people, their families and communities.

Living in a small regional area, being able to go to TAFE in our town means that young people are not forced to travel large distances or leave home early to achieve quality higher education. TAFE is an important part of our community, particularly for young people who are looking for local employment.

I am concerned that our local TAFE will have courses cut because of less funding. This concern is justified from the recent culling of Art courses. Local businesses and industries are willing at the moment to provide scholarships, but I am worried that the government is shirking its responsibility to properly fund TAFE and is instead pushing the cost onto young people, their families and local businesses and industries. It is a matter of shame that our state government has pursued this course of cost cutting at the expense of such a quality education system for our young people who are the

future of this state. I am appalled that I am required to write a submission on behalf of my students and young people statewide for the government to abandon funding cuts.

I am worried that the government is seeking to pursue poorly regulated private colleges with lower standards than TAFE. All of my TAFE teaching colleagues are trained teachers with relevant experience. I am concerned that untrained people will be considered fit to teach our young people.

I am further appalled at the government push to create lower paid, less professional positions within our current TAFE system to undermine the quality of educators. Our young people deserve better.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because maintaining a quality, professional, affordable higher education pathway is important for young people, their families and communities statewide.

Submitted by

Chris Hayden of Gunnedah

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Eve Willsted, of New Farm make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 26 years old and work as a costume designer, in the postcode of 4006.

I went to TAFE after school, as I wasn't ready for uni being that teachers at our school informed students that if you didn't get a good OP that you couldn't cope with uni. They were wrong, but I didn't learn that until I had done a year of TAFE and realised that I was actually a great student.

TAFE gave me the confidence to study further, and I was only to take advantage of that because of the affordability and availability of creative courses in 2005.

TAFE gives students useful skills in accessible language, for affordable prices, so that everyone (not just those lucky enough to have completed higher education, or received encouragement from teachers, or funding from parents) can educate themselves.

I believe that many people feel that they are "too old fashioned" or "not academic

enough" to undertake further study, and for many that pressure is alleviated at TAFE in the way courses are structured and assessed.

This is what I found for myself in studying at TAFE. The confidence it gave me to continue as a student, and to contribute to my community and to the workforce was so valuable.

I have two friends who for years thought themselves "too stupid" to go to uni, but having completed courses at TAFE they gained the confidence in themselves to go to uni. One is now studying a Bachelor of Sciences, and the other a Bachelor of Social Studies majoring in Psychology (getting HDs for all her assignments).

N/A

N/A

I haven't yet noticed this being currently enrolled in University. But with the new budget cuts to universities on the horizon I am likely to be looking to TAFE instead for my education, and hope that when I do courses in the arts (such as photography, textile design, jewellery design) are still available and affordable.

N/A

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because when education is affordable and accessible then those of us from low to median socio-economic backgrounds have the opportunity and the ability to choose to better ourselves, and to support ourselves, rather than to rely on government support such as the dole having been driven to believe we can't do, or be, anything better.

A better educated community means a more functional and more enjoyable society.

Submitted by

Eve Willstead of New Farm

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Ferguson Roper, of Scarborough make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 27 years old and work as a Lecturer, in the postcode of 6019.

After high school, I worked as a supermarket assistant for three years. I hated it, but wasn't sure what I wanted to do in life. I ended up going to TAFE to study Fitness, which led to full time work as a personal trainer and bootcamp instructor.

Following this, I was able to start working at TAFE as a casual lecturer, which then changed my career path to education. I see TAFE as wholly responsible for the success and experience I have now.

Additionally, many of my friends have been to TAFE, in fact, fewer of my friends have been to university. The jobs they hold all directly stem from the time they spent at TAFE, from creative professionals, to trades, and everything in between.

TAFE provides the skills and knowledge for people to work in fields that require a high level of competence and practical ability. This includes many trades, technical and creative industries. High quality students are expected in these industries.

TAFE gave me a second chance because I was wasting away as a supermarket assistant. It gave me the qualification, skills and knowledge to work in the Fitness Industry, one that demands high levels of motivation, discipline and communication. TAFE took me away from my "job" and put me in a career that I love. The money is better, I am fitter, and I love going into work everyday.

I don't live in a regional area, but I understand the importance of TAFE in providing skills, knowledge and a sense of purpose to communities who otherwise wouldn't have access to education. I can imagine a lot of these regional communities eroding if they don't have access to TAFE and other education.

In my field, the Fitness Industry, there are many private RTOs that just do not produce the same quality of graduate as TAFE does. This is from my own experience working with non-TAFE students, as well as industry feedback - many job positions are only open to those who study at TAFE.

Further, the way these private companies meet audit and AQTF requirements is surprising given the shortness of their courses, and the lack of practical teaching methods. How well are they regulated, if at all, by ASQA?

At the TAFE I work at, the cap on hours has meant that we cannot run the same amount of courses we have in the past, even there is strong demand for it. At the ground level, lecturers are working overtime and outside their scope of practice to be able to keep up. Many other lecturers simply do not bother, and as a result, the quality

of education suffers.

Student fees have increased, and there is less funding available, so many courses have to be fee-for-service, which is often prohibitively expensive for most students.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it provides qualifications to students that are required in a huge amount of important and emerging job fields. Historically, the private providers have failed to deliver the high quality of education that TAFE does, and as such, many industries will only hire TAFE students. If more cuts are made to TAFE, then the work force will become under-skilled, resulting in a larger economical cost to industries and government in the long term.

Submitted by

Ferguson Roper of Scarborough

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Steven Rudd, of Wellingrove make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 55 years old and work as a Education Manager, in the postcode of 2370.

I have worked in the TAFE system for 12 years in the ACT, NSW and Qld. I currently manage delivery of TAFE course in my current position.

TAFE often proves to be flexible in its delivery therefore offers community members an opportunity that they may never have been able to consider. Training that I organise for my workplace is always to give current and relevant training to enhance employment opportunities.

TAFE was the beginning of my career in Carpentry that evolved into education.

I have had many students over the years from disadvantaged backgrounds who take TAFE training opportunities to enhance their lives.

TAFE has often been an avenue for high school students who do not fit in at a school.

The service that I currently utilise from TAFE has already been eroded. The small campus has gradually reduced its ability to deliver courses meaning trainers must come from further afield. With continued funding cuts it may mean that TAFE cannot deliver at all.

The private providers are not performing as well as TAFE. TAFE are highly scutinised compared to other RTOs. I believe private providers are only in it for the buck and I have seen a regular pattern of course nominal hours being reduced. Even TAFE has done this in some cases to keep up with the competition. Many TAFE teachers are unhappy that they are finding it more difficult to deliver quality training because of funding restrictions.

Teachers no longer available at small campuses.

Deminishing nominal hours.

Exorbitant charges for workbooks

Threat of Campus closure

The cuts to TAFE are dumbing down the country. TAFE try to deliver course with less but ultimately the student misses out and in some circumstances are set up for failure. Most TAFE institutes are managed by bean counters who do not care about quality education outcomes. They just want it to fit into an ever deminishing budget.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because dedicated TAFE teachers and staff have a genuine desire to educate people. The almighty \$ should not matter to a teacher. Private providers are mainly interested in the money. Please stop this madness of user pay education as it is only dumbing down our

country.

Submitted by

Steven Rudd of Wellingrove

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Susan Schrader, of Camden make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 58 years old and work as a retired, in the postcode of 2570.

I have worked as a teacher of high school students and I have seen how essential TAFE is as an option for young people to further their education and to gain skills necessary to career choices. Three of my four children have attended TAFE. My daughter is a diesel mechanic and two sons are electricians. Without TAFE and the courses it offers, these young people would not be enjoying the work that they do.

We need higher forms of education to be affordable for all our futures - we need trained and skilled men and women who have a passion for the careers they have chosen. Providing places for this education is a responsibility that the government needs to take more seriously. Taking money out of any level of education is not acceptable and should not be acceptable. As our young people face their future, they

should be able to do so with maximum options. Apprenticeships at TAFE are absolutely essential as one of those options.

My daughter struggled to find employment and it was not until she did a pre-apprenticeship course in mechanics (at TAFE) that she discovered her passion. Getting the apprenticeship was another battle but thanks to equal opportunity employment policies, she found one and then worked through both TAFE and the apprenticeship. She loves her work and is now attending a further course in business management at TAFE.

A young friend who has disabilities has just started an apprenticeship in hair dressing - she has an aptitude for this work but if there were no TAFE courses available for this she would be unable to afford to attend private courses.

I don't live in a regional area but we do have a TAFE nearby - it is essential to the young people who live here - offering many high school students extra options in their HSC years - and giving them the start for future job options.

Teaching friends in TAFE have been on notice for quite some time never knowing from one semester to the next if they will be employed. This is not good. There needs to be certainty that teachers will be available and courses will run.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because education

is important ... now and everyday into the future. We need it. Our young people need it to provide them with hope that they can achieve, that they will have somewhere to go to learn, and somewhere to set themselves up for a future for which they are well trained. TAFE is that place for so many.

Submitted by

Susan Schrader of Camden

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, margret ross, of dicky beach make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 64 years old and work as a volunteer, in the postcode of 4551.

I completed year 12 and received 2 B's and 2 C's when I was 17 years of age. I did not qualify to go to teacher's college with those results so worked as a receptionist at Brisbane City Hall until 21 years of age when I went to work for the Dept of Army at Victoria Barracks Brisbane. I finally gained a transfer to Dept of Foreign Affairs where I intended travelling the world that way. Unfortunately, as the only child of a schizophrenic mother, when my father suddenly left - I came home one day to find that had occurred - I felt I had no choice but to look after my mother; and I did until she died in 1997. However, being emotionally unstable, naive and vulnerable from my growing up experiences, I made unwise choices and ended up pregnant - and went on to have 4 children to the same man over 13 years and we were a family but a troubled one. After that I was a sole parent for 10 years, all the while being an unpaid carer to my

mum. Then a man 23 years older landed in my life (I was working part time and voluntarily in a charity shop and he used to come in there to sell things on consignment). I was more vulnerable than ever and surprisingly, he seemed to tick all the boxes of the needs of my family i.e. mum and the kids and me. We had 5 wonderful years together and then ill health started to appear in him and a change took place in our relationship - I spent a whole year experiencing a living grief - very painful. But after 17 years of marriage, he passed away 2 years ago. We came to live on the Sunshine Coast 3 years ago and I regularly say that MY life has only just begun despite the fact that I am on a Disability Pension because of multiple physical problems caused by physical work over the years done in order to fit in the main responsibilities in my life - family - and set hours with an employer just did not fit in to my schedule and because of an alcoholic first husband and much older second husband (who did not have money since his family divided his property up between them before he married me - when he developed increasing dementia I used to say don't ask either of us why we got married because we have both forgotten !) and a mentally ill mother who needed supervision as well as 4 growing children. So, I say I was (and still am when they need me), a "willing martyr" to my family. I have learnt to empathise with the pain of those around me (which allows me to enjoy my life while being of use to others) and have come a long way on handling any pain my loved ones experience (which is harder to learn). Enter Sunshine Coast TAFE and the visionary government of the time with a 2020 plan who gave scholarships to carers through Carers Qld in order to gain a Cert 111 in Community Services which we all passed (and I have to say that I was repeatedly told my work was of excellent standard); but wait, there's more - because I do a great deal of voluntary work in the community, I then saw via the multicultural network to which I belong, a free 6 week online course in volunteer teacher English through Sunshine Coast and I completed that and do community work and work with asylum seekers in detention at Pinkenba also. As well, because I am a voluntary client of STEPS Caloundra, I have been able to do a Cert 1V in Mental

Health online through a NSW TAFE and I have just completed all the theory assignments for that and am looking for places that will allow me to complete the practical hours I still need in some components to gain the Certificate. Have I received the gold at the end of the rainbow, i.e. some paid employment? Unfortunately, try as I do, I have not as yet had that good fortune. I am not without hope of that happening though, and paid work that my body will be able to do, and using the knowledge and skills I have gained, will eventuate. In the meantime, all the community work I do has been greatly enhanced by the skills and knowledge I have learnt. I would love to attempt a degree in Indigenous Studies, but well, money is handy when you go shopping my first husband used to say. I am however, forever thankful for the TAFE experiences I have been given even at my age.

I can only imagine how fortunate young people are to have the opportunity to access the marvellous courses TAFE colleges offer. In order to be a truly humane and human society, we need people of all types and abilities. University breeds intellectuals and those of above average intellect (at least it should). TAFE breeds the salt of the earth type of people. More hands on type of people and less of the "think tank" type of people. One without the other leaves society all the poorer.

The TAFE courses I have done and that I am currently doing, have given me something I find hard to put into words - knowledge? Yes; opportunity? I dearly hope so; self esteem? Definitely; Example to my grand children? I certainly seems to have given them a standard to meet - can't have Nana getting better results than they do; proud children? You betcha! Am I proud of the achievements of my children? No doubt about that at all; and my daughter has benefitted from TAFE also. She has gone from washing dishes as a caterer's assistant to running the diversional therapy unit of a up market nursing home to working in the rehab unit of a major hospital - thanks to TAFE certificates and diplomas. She would like to do a degree too

and she is the sole parent of a 14 year old daughter. She also became a trained child care worker along the way but prefers the field she is in now.

I live where a university is accessible. SC Uni is very accessible if one has the money or is able to take on debt, which I do not feel able to do even though my children are very supportive - my debt would come out of my estate when I die and I believe that is not fair to my children.

When it comes to private colleges, it seems to me they have their own agendas (making money ?) and vary according to the commitment of those operating the facility. Surely a facility that is responsible to government not owners or shareholders for the results is more accountable.

I am aware of cuts to TAFEs. When we received our Cert 111 in Community Services, by the current Attorney General Jarrod Bleijie, the organisers of the course were unable to say whether scholarships to complete another course would be accessed from the current government. Carers deserve opportunity to enhance their lives too.

Of course, significant cuts to the system must have a detrimental effect on the quality of services given. How can it not ? The price for that will be paid by a poorer (and not just financially) society which impacts on all of us. Each one of us is less safe walking down the street or sleeping in our beds or leaving our homes unattended or even being inside our homes, when people (especially young people) do not have the hope of improving their circumstance in life by gaining better employment through better knowledge and skills. Self preservation demands we give as many as possible opportunity to improve their lives.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the future

of our children, the future of our society, depends on it. Do we wish to keep going forward or do we wish to go backward ? Is history destined to repeat itself or do we learn from it ?

Submitted by

margret ross of dicky beach

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Kerry Sullivan, of Leeton make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 58 years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2705.

I have taught with TAFE in Vocational Access since 1989. During this period, many people have been able to access a second chance at to obtain educational qualifications that have enabled them to go onto further study at university or higher level vocational qualifications.

Graduates from vocational access courses go on to enrol in higher level courses at TAFE or university or obtain employment.

There are many case studies:

NP was unable to complete HSC at school as he was dealing with a medical issue. He would arrive at TAFE at 11:00 am or 4:00 pm some days. Teachers worked with him

during classes and in their own time. He had early acceptance into the University of Wollongong to study Nanotechnology, completed an Honours degree and was offered a Post-Doctoral Fellowship.

PN was unable to complete HSC at school due to a medical condition. Now studying at Canberra University.

GC (Aboriginal) completed equivalent of Year 10 (CGVE) and Year 12 (TPC) as a mature age student. Studied Bachelor of Education and Master of Social Indigenous policy at UTS. Has presented at international conferences and works as a teacher.

BP, LD and YN (Aboriginal) completed equivalent of years 10 and 12 - completed Bachelor of Adult Education at UTS, now working as teachers and in university sector.

JN - completed equivalent of years 10 and 12 - went onto nursing.

These are just a minute number of student case studies that highlight the importance of TAFE in providing second chance education in rural communities where there are no alternative educational pathways outside of TAFE.

Funding programs have KPI's attached including attendance. Teachers work with individual students to develop customised programs that allow flexible attendance patterns to enable students to meet family and caring responsibilities - many of our students achieve educational outcomes while studying in this mode and our teachers work outside of paid hours to meet these needs. The lack of public transport also prevents students from attending 100% of the time - some walk to and from the campus up to 5 kms; adverse weather affects ability to attend - extreme heat and rain. Funding should be linked to educational attainment - not reliant on attendance.

Not applicable in a rural environment.

Teaching and learning facilities are as they were built 50 years ago. They are outdated, badly configured and not suited to an era where information technology plays a major role in developing literacy and enabling research by students.

Office space for teachers is inadequate and access to teacher configured computers is inadequate.

The introduction of the Course Related Charge and increases in the TAFE Admin fee have meant that some prospective students have not engaged because they have not had the funds.

There has been a decline in customer service - particularly for internal customers. Part time casual teachers who teach 5 hours per week are expected to assist students with enrolling online (some of our clients can barely speak English yet alone access an online enrolment system), enter student details online, respond to every enquiry, access multiple TAFE systems, travel and attend Professional Development activities (most of which centre around funding and audit requirements) in their own time at their own expense. There is no recognition of the hours teachers work beyond those for which they are paid. Over the past few years, it has become increasingly difficult to attract and retain teachers and to meet policy requirements with a part-time casualised workforce.

Social inclusion has exacerbated social exclusion; the 'public' have been taken out of the educational system and there is no commitment to providing 'public' service.

Submitted by

Kerry Sullivan of Leeton

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Katherine Sibly, of Trott Park make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

My name is Katherine Sibly. I'm 22 years old and am currently in my third year of studying for my BEd BA in Primary Teaching at Flinders University. TAFE saved my life.

As a result of a range of factors, I had a rough exit from high school. My TER wasn't high enough to gain entrance into the teaching course I wanted to do at University and my prospects for employment were low. I returned to an adult campus and completed Year 13 to up my score and improve my chances.

Once I had finished, I had a great score but I was utterly burnt out and exhausted and really not ready to jump straight into a Uni degree.

At the end of 2009, I applied for entry into my teaching course at Flinders and a Cert IV

in Visual Art & Contemp. Craft at TAFESA. I had always had an interest in visual art and I spent a great deal of my down time drawing.

I was accepted for both courses.

In 2010, I deferred my Uni course and took up my TAFE offer.

It is not an understatement for me to say that my time spent at TAFE changed my life for the better. I was able to connect with other likeminded people, develop my skills and learn more than I ever thought possible from lecturers and staff who were all exceptionally talented, practicing artists themselves.

My TAFE experience was a lifeline for me. I went on to study visual arts topics as part of my degree at University and they were nowhere near as comprehensive or of the same high quality (in terms of both trained staff and curriculum content) that my TAFE course was.

As a result of TAFE I built lifelong relationships with other artists in my state and have established strong links with the arts community here. I have participated in exhibitions, both organising them and displaying my own work. Through TAFE I was provided opportunities to enter competitions to have my work recognised. As a result, I entered and won an international design competition (M.A.D. for Peace) in 2010/11.

As a result of my TAFE experience, my passion for visual arts was further ignited and I have used that passion to set up classes and teach others in my spare time. I have taken my work into schools and collaborated with teachers in developing authentic arts curriculum content and volunteered in the delivery of lessons, helping children learn techniques related to observational drawing and ultimately encouraging them to

believe in their own capacity to create great work.

The arts are very much a part of who I am and TAFE is directly responsible for showing me that my passion has practical applications that can not only bring me a sense of fulfillment but gives me opportunities to help others, too.

When I had left TAFE to take up my Uni offer, the campus I had attended (O'Halloran Hill) stopped running the visual art course I had taken.

They ceased to run all the art programs there and instead, moved them to the one campus in town (AC Arts).

I found this really frustrating because, since all the courses were to be run on the one campus, it meant it was likely that so many applicants wouldn't gain entry into the course they wanted simply because there isn't the room.

This frustration was heightened by the fact that all the studio spaces at my old campus were sitting there disused and many of my talented lecturers had either been forced into unemployment, or moved interstate to find work.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because through these cuts, the quality of our arts programs has been diminished, and I fear that unless something is done NOW this damage will be irreparable.

Please, stop gutting our TAFEs and slashing our arts programs. They save lives. They saved mine.

Submitted by

Katherine Sibly of Trott Park

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Lynette Trindall, of Winmalee make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 63 years old and work as a Consultant, in the postcode of 2777.

I undertook a course at TAFE after I went back to work when my youngest child went to High School. The course was a Diploma in Community Welfare which helped me gain high wages and employment at a higher level.

My 2 Grandsons are now at TAFE, undertaking apprenticeships. This will give them greater work opportunities when completed.

TAFE gives greater opportunities for full time work with the Certificates and Diplomas which have the power for better opportunities and wages.

TAFE gave me the chance for full time work and a more substantial salary.

I live in the Blue Mtns West of Sydney. The Blue Mtns TAFE is aprox 40 kilometres from my home which made it a manageable night-time opportunity to undertake my course. With less funding this Tafe would not be able to offer the courses it currently operates.

Evening Colleges are an expensive option but do not provide employment opportunities like Tafe.

In my employment as a Community Development Worker, I have run short Outreach Courses such as Computers and Work Opportunities for Women.

Higher fees have affected young people who in the past would have undertaken courses.

My Grandsons are accessing their local Tafe and although receiving a low Centrelink benefit (Newstart), are currently able to undertake their chosen career paths. if higher fees are charged, this will take away accessible classes.

Submitted by

Lynette Trindall of Winmalee

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, (Dr) John Tully, of Yarraville make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 65 years old and work as a senior lecturer in Higher Education at Victoria University, in the postcode of 3013.

Many years ago, in "another life", as they say, I attended night school at the then Hobart Technical College (now TAFE) in order to qualify for a rigger's certificate. I was grateful for the opportunity to learn skills beyond those of a labourer. Later, after I had left construction and heavy industry, I worked in the Footscray College of TAFE in Melbourne, teaching humanities subjects in the Tertiary Orientation Programme. This was an alternative Year 12 programme and I very much enjoyed teaching in it. Over the years, TOP was very successful in enabling working class kids from Melbourne's western suburbs to go on to university study. The same was true of the "mainstream" VCE Year 12 programme, in which I also taught. It goes without saying that I am disgusted with the constant attacks by conservative governments on TAFE in this

country. These attacks, I believe, are part of the relentless drive of the Liberals to privatise and deregulate technical and further education. Working in Higher Education at Victoria University, I am in a position to witness the effects of the constant cuts on VU's TAFE sector. Good teachers are driven out or demoralised and the effects on students and potential students are incalculable.

It beggars belief that TAFE, which is an essential part of the education and training of the workforce, should be the victim of these reckless cuts. This impacts on individuals and will have a detrimental effect for years to come on Australian industry.

I know that many of my former students in TAFE were given a second chance and went on to make something of their lives. One young man in particular I will always remember. When he had successfully completed his course, he shook my hand and thanked me. "You'll never know," he told me, "just what a huge effect you and the other teachers had on me. I was set for a career in crime and didn't give a shit about anything. I don't think like that any more."

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means being able to learn valuable skills, perhaps a trade, perhaps the opportunity of entry into higher education. Without TAFE we can only expect the further decline of rural and small town Australia and entrench inequality.

I have no personal experience of this but am aware of the scandal of private providers who are only in the business for a profit and who do nothing to educate those entrusted to them. This appears to be particularly the case with overseas students who are victims of what can only be described as a racket.

Many courses at VU have been cut. Students have been turned away and formerly

subsidized courses are now full fee paying. A colleague told me of young people turned away in tears because they cannot afford to pay the fees for the course of their choice. Another impact has been that Higher Education, itself under strain, has had to cross-subsidize our TAFE sector.

I can see TAFE disappearing from VU. Already it is a shadow of its former self. Our Nicholson Street campus was once almost exclusively a TAFE campus. Increasingly it is being turned over to Higher Ed.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is essential for the future of our young people and for the nation as a whole if we are to have an educated and skilled workforce appropriate to the challenges that lie ahead. Not to undo the cuts is to condemn many young people to a twilight world of despair and hopelessness of the kind created by the late Maggie Thatcher. We do not need a collective lobotomy of this kind.

Submitted by

(Dr) John Tully of Yarraville

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Laura Neale, of Paradise make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 19 years old and work as a part-time clerical assistant, in the postcode of 5075.

I am currently in my third year of study of a Bachelor of Visual Arts and Design at the Adelaide College of the Arts (a specialised TAFE institute for the arts). I have always been passionate about the arts, but was hesitant to follow it as a career path because of possible difficulties finding a stable income to support myself. However, after studying at AC Arts, I have been able to form a professional support system, and have already made several contacts in the art world, which I otherwise would not have been able to do. The TAFE Visual Arts program allows budding artists of all ages and from all walks of life to follow their dreams of becoming practising artists. AC Arts is a creative hub, and brings together artists from several disciplines, creating an artistically rich environment, which benefits all of its students and lecturers alike. Several of my lecturers completed the exact same TAFE course I am currently studying, before going

on to teach the course to others, whilst also following their own artistic pursuits, giving firsthand feedback on what it means to be a working artist. This is proof of the impact TAFE can have on one's life. TAFE offers benefits which just would not be offered at similar courses in University environments, if there are in fact similar courses at all. I know countless people who simply would not be able to further their knowledge or practise in a chosen field at a university, thus TAFE is not just 'a backup option', it is the ONLY option for said people.

TAFE is in essence an institute dedicated to providing practical experience in a number of professional fields. Whilst there is still a strong focus on theoretical and sometimes academic aspects of different disciplines, the overriding aim of TAFE is to prepare its students for a capable working life. For instance, in my arts course, I not only produce portfolios of visual work, I also experiment with new techniques, work on collaborations with other students and established artists, learn how to curate shows and put together advertising and promotional material, and learn about today's art market and how to establish myself as an artist. I have spoken to students in the Uni SA Bachelor of Visual Arts course, and know for a fact that these aspects are simply not factors of their coursework. This just goes to show how many opportunities arise from studying at TAFE, and the care TAFE provides in ensuring that its students will be successful members of the Australian workforce, with the utmost possible experience.

My best friend Issy has just begun the Costume Construction course at AC Arts. Last year, she began study of an Arts Degree at Adelaide University, but withdrew after just a few weeks because the environment was just not for her. She then discovered the costume course, and knew it was the opportunity she had been waiting for since finishing school. Costume design was not an option at Issy's school, nor any other school that I know of, thus AC Arts is the only institute to offer a structured course in this field. I know for a fact that had Issy not found this course, she would have wasted

several months, if not years, trying to decide which career path she would eventually take, before finally settling into something about which she is not passionate. Issy and the costume department have recently been told of plans to move their course to the TAFE City Campus, merging it with the Fashion Design Course. This would be highly detrimental to the creative nature of the course, as they would no longer have the facilities to create props etc., and would lose their connection with the acting and dancing students they work with. They would also be working in a windowless basement, resembling a 'sweatshop factory', further stifling any creativity. Issy has told me, that if this were to occur, she, and the majority of her class mates, would leave the course with no second thought. Even the lecturers of the course said they would understand this decision, as the move would destroy the heart of the course, and they would not want their students turning into 'little fashion robots'. The costume course is fundamentally different to that of fashion design, but it would appear that the powers at be are either unaware of this, or unwilling to recognise it.

I have been informed of the potential budget cuts to my Visual Arts course. The exponential increasing of fees (from approx. \$3 per contact hour, to \$17) will preclude many potential artists from even considering further study. TAFE is generally known for its accessibility and inclusivity to students from all socioeconomic backgrounds. Whilst a slight raise in overall fees would be understandable, such a significant increase is simply an abomination.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it not only provides unparalleled tuition, but for me personally, the opportunity to surround myself with like-minded people. People who support my artistic endeavours, and want nothing more than for me to succeed in the art world. I have made more close friendships in

the last 2 years at AC Arts, with students and lecturers alike, than I did in my entire schooling years. It would be criminal to rob future potential students of the same benefits that I have been afforded, and I would be devastated if I could not continue my course under its current format and fee structure. TAFE has become my life, and I will do everything within my power to stop this being taken away.

Submitted by

Laura Neale of Paradise

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Sharryn Usher, of Waterview Heights make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

Introduction:

I have worked in the Education field for over 30 years as a teacher. My experience includes Primary schools, SkillShare, TAFE and Corrections. My present employment involves working alongside TAFE teachers.

The role of TAFE in my life:

Over the years I have studied at TAFE a couple of times. My study was undertaken while working full-time and OTEN provided me with the flexibility to work and study in a supportive environment.

I have also assisted other students studying by distance at TAFE. These students were unable to access Face to face study opportunities as they were incarcerated. Again TAFE provided a supportive study environment with additional assistance due to the students' lack of access to Internet.

One of my sons has recently completed his apprenticeship at our local TAFE. Over the three years of attending TAFE, he was able to study close to home and his workplace.

My six brothers and sisters have all studied at TAFE. Over the years they have completed numerous courses. TAFE has enabled them to build on previous skills by achieving a higher level qualification.

Contribution of TAFE:

Students who engage with vocational education in NSW often come from poor socio-economic backgrounds. They face significant financial difficulty not just because of the fees and charges related to their study, but also from the associated living costs and loss of income while studying. This year costs in NSW for students have escalated by nearly ten percent. Many students are on benefits or apprentice wages. As a result many students are not choosing to continue with their study or with further study.

TAFE is recognised for its world class programs that deliver access and equity services for all students. It has always had a central role in ensuring that all students get access to quality vocational education irrespective of their ability to pay.

The role TAFE plays in offering a second chance education to marginalised groups in all communities, whether regional or urban should be celebrated. For individuals who

left school at an early age, or those needing retraining due to workplace injury, redundancy or redeployment, for those newly arrived where English is a second language, TAFE has been the mainstay and first port of call to enable them to get back on their feet and function in an ever increasingly competitive environment with its high demand for skills.

In particular, Adult Basic Education and General Education courses offered at TAFE have been the main pathway for marginalised groups with disadvantaged educational backgrounds to reintegrate into society and gain employment. These groups, including older generations, single mothers and youth at risk, are now under greater pressure through government policy to retrain and gain meaningful employment while pathways to further education through TAFE are being cut.

TAFE NSW does an excellent job at providing specialist support to students who experience disadvantage. Services include disability support, multicultural support, outreach services, support for Indigenous students plus careers advice and counselling. TAFE NSW is different to the other states because, up until now, it has retained these services.

However, the pressure on diminishing budgets and the impending so called market model for TAFE NSW as a result of COAG agreements and the Smart and Skilled policy settings has seen the fight to maintain these services intensify.

Impacts of Budget Cuts:

TAFE budget cuts have already harmed students' chances by causing increased class sizes, fees and charges, reduced class hours, lower teacher qualifications and discontinued specialist support for disabled, multicultural, Aboriginal and

disadvantaged students. Most obvious is the impact on regions where it has been quite severe.

With the introduction of a competitive market in 2014 with its proposed funding regime, there is the fear that TAFE will withdraw altogether from offering such programs. With the focus on short term employment and trade skills for a wish list yet to be determined by State Government and Industry, there is yet no indication of what funding will be available for the traditional second chance education.

It is unlikely that private RTOs looking towards profit margins will have any interest in offering such programs. Consequently, TAFE NSW in the interim has cut, and continues to cut, its budget for this provision as it positions itself for the competitive market in 2013.

Following on from the announcement in NSW in September 2012 that Fine Arts would no longer be funded, the North Coast Institute of TAFE commenced a restructure of the Information Technology and Creative Industries Faculty. The reduction in the budget for the faculty was \$3million.

However, as the faculty also included fashion and information technology teachers, the restructure has led to all full time fashion teachers losing their jobs, (5 teachers representing over 160 years of industrial experience), several information technology teachers and nearly all the fine arts teachers. Now Lismore retains only one teacher of Fine Arts. At other TAFE institutes the damage is similar.

The Creative Industries Taskforce (established by the NSW government) has since identified that exports from creative industries were worth over \$1.5 billion to the NSW economy in 2011 about 3% of the total. The taskforce has recommended the

reinstatement of TAFE funding. However, the damage to the teacher workforce has already been sustained. For students wishing to study Fine Arts in NSW, the fees are as high as \$12,000.

In NSW the workload pressures for TAFE teachers associated with increased competition, and as a direct consequence of open markets, increased regulatory compliance, are becoming unsustainable. The costs of the parallel reporting and infrastructure required to impose regulation on an open market is seldom counted.

In the meantime, TAFE teachers in NSW try to do the right thing by their communities and students. Reports have been received from teachers that students from severely disadvantaged backgrounds have been enticed into debt by a private provider offering a six week Diploma of Community Welfare after recently completed a foundations pathway course. Where is the protection now in NSW for the vulnerable.

Funding for TAFE must be guaranteed to ensure that these vital educational services developed over many years continue to meet the needs of disadvantaged people of our community. It should be looked on as an investment in our future not an cost that needs weighed up.

Submitted by

Sharryn Usher of Waterview Heights

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Lidia Nowak, of Travancore make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 53 years old and work as a public servant, in the postcode of 3000.

I have a 21 year old son with a disability - autism spectrum disorder. He has completed subjects from the Certificate in General Education for Adults, and is currently attempting adult VCE at TAFE. TAFE has played an important part in his life by enabling him to strive towards his goal of going to university.

My 21 year old son who has autism spectrum disorder, has been given a second chance by TAFE by enabling him to gain the prerequisites required to fulfill his goal of going to university. He went to an autism-specific special school during his secondary years and never had the opportunity to do academic subjects. He has completed subjects from the Certificate in General Education for Adults, and is currently attempting adult VCE at TAFE, and hopes to do well enough to gain entry to uni next

year.

The recent budget cuts have meant that my son's TAFE has had to cut a number of subjects from his course, and every subject is taught in a weekly 4-hour block (to increase efficiency). The teaching of a subject at year 12 VCE in a weekly 4-hour block is very taxing on the students, and leads to more disadvantage in the very competitive VCE environment.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it plays a very important role in enabling young people with a disability (such as my son) to obtain skills and knowledge that will assist them obtain employment. It is the TAFE sector that provides much of the training for people with a 'mild' disability. Not only is this good for the individual but it is good for the nation as it means that many on the Disability Support Pension (DSP) would be more likely to get a job and perhaps be able to fully, or partially, support themselves financially.

Submitted by

Lidia Nowak of Travancore

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Helen Richards, of Semaphore make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am writing as a 61 y o working woman, contemplating retirement in the next few years, and looking forward to being as busy as I choose to be, enjoying grand-children; volunteering; growing, cooking with, and preserving fruit, vegies and herbs; and setting up a small craft business amongst other activities.

I have trained as a kindergarten/early childhood teacher through university equivalents, and studied horticulture through TAFE in later years. I found the TAFE course to be an extremely well-conceived and well-delivered affordable course, with lots of flexibility to accommodate the wide range of students who participated .

I am increasingly alarmed and despairing over the directions in which the current government is taking Australia, especially in the areas of health and education, and I'm sure the next government will only follow suit, as the Howard government started this massive assault on the historically reasonably egalitarian culture that Australia was built on, and in which it took great pride.

Implementing some of the long-overdue Gonski report is fantastic as far as it goes, but I can't imagine anyone in the Gonski research team, envisaged robbing the tertiary education sector to pay for the pre-school and early learning sectors....it really makes a short-sighted contradictory nonsense of the whole deal, and demonstrates a total lack of visionary thinking.

TAFE has been an immensely valuable education resource in Australia for many decades, and has delivered in spades. If we genuinely wish to rise back to the top rungs of most highly educated countries in the world, (and that doesn't apply only to university degrees) we need to keep the huge majority of tertiary education under government control, rather than hiving off such important responsibilities to private, profit making concerns; and funding needs to be at least maintained in tough financial times, and increased as financial environments improve.

It seems politicians and the general public are at last realising that the first five to eight years are the most crucial for predicting a child's outcomes as an adult, but what is the point of encouraging and resourcing children to achieve their developmental potential at school, and then letting them down when they finish school and are looking to start or study for careers - unless of course, they happen to belong to the elite and/or wealthy classes, and their parents can afford the ever increasing costs of learning, or are singularly intelligent, and can win scholarships.

How then will governments and society at large, deal with the disgruntled, disenfranchised youth, who can't afford an education that has become a luxury, rather than the right it should be in any democracy? It really doesn't bear thinking about, (thoughts of Russia, some African countries, and Egypt spring immediately to my mind) and I fail to see why any politicians would even contemplate such a course of action. Australia has been a world leader in education in the not so distant past, and there is no reason we can't regain that status....but only if our politicians and decision-makers truly believe in the right of every Australian to the best possible education at all levels, and act accordingly.

Submitted by

Helen Richards of Semaphore

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Matthew Hockings, of Jindabyne make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 30 years old and work as a Firefighter, in the postcode of 2000.

I'm a long time supporter of Tafe NSW. I have two Cert III's a Cert IV and am currently studying for a diploma through Tafe. I am a qualified carpenter and builder, as well as a professional firefighter. Tafe played a role in me achieving all these qualifications

Tafe provides quality tertiary education at an affordable price. There is a skills shortage in Australia in many industries that are traditionally studied at Tafe. Tafe provides a skilled workforce and an alternative to a University Education

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because without a

well funded Tafe the skills shortage in this country will increase and we will not be able to move forward as a nation.

Submitted by

Matthew Hockings of Jindabyne

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Anna Mallyon, of Brunswick make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 39 years old and work as a social researcher, in the postcode of 3000.

I have undertaken several courses at Tafe throughout my working life, starting with a certificate 3 in Community Service after leaving school in 1989. This certificate helped me get a job in the community sector. Within the next couple of years I completed a bar and waiting course which enabled me to always find work if I needed it. A few years later, in the early nineties, I was working for Telstra (it was Telecom back then), and at my team leader's behest, I completed a certificate in workplace training (back then it was called 'Train the Trainer') which enabled me to be promoted to a more fulfilling (and better paid position).

In the mid 90's I returned to South Australia and was trying to do something more creative, so, without an apprenticeship, I put myself through the upholstery training in

order to try and start a business in rejuvenating vintage furniture. This proved to be a difficult way to earn a living in Adelaide, and after a couple of years eventually gave up and enrolled in university.

I undertook a Certificate 4 in Visual Art and Contemporary Design, in 2010 during the last year of visual art at O'Halloran Hill and as a result was introduced to a network of immensely talented art and design lecturers (most of whom are now out of work since the art department was closed at O'Halloran Hill) whose course enriched my life and developed my skills and abilities to the point where I have created two large scale installations at the Old Adelaide Gaol, and can make jewellery and sculpture.

Now, approaching my 40th birthday, I am again about to engage with the TAFE again to do a Diploma of Ceramics part time through evening classes, in order to try (again) to pursue an artform through which I will be able to support myself.

There are not enough words to express how important Tafe has been and continues to be in my life. It allowed me to firstly escape the disadvantage that was all around me in the Southern suburbs of Adelaide in the late 80's, then helped me to better my employment positions and finally has allowed me to make a creative contribution to society as well. I have a well rounded set of life skills encompassing professional skills and creative skills directly due to the opportunities that have been afforded me through my Tafe training and various times in my life.

Importantly, in my work with disadvantaged young people (I worked as a youth worker with Southern Junction Community Services, while I was at university), I have seen many, many young people change their lives through Tafe training. For young people coming from generational disadvantage, Tafe is, for many of them, the ONLY educational opportunity that have. What remains for them without a healthy Tafe

system is very bleak. Cutting funding to Tafe is tantamount to imposing a class system where the most disadvantaged in our community are restricted from educational opportunity.

Please, please keep the Tafe system intact.

For people who are disadvantaged, Tafe allows them to gain skills that will allow them to start to pursue careers other than have to settle for jobs where there is no challenge and no opportunity for advancement. I taught Sociology from 2003 - 2008 at Flinders university and I have seen first hand the difficulty that young people have when their homelife has not supported them educationally. They rarely make it through the university system, let alone do well in it when they come to uni straight from high school more unprepared as the students from better resourced backgrounds are. Tafe helps these groups either a) ease their way into university slowly with mre success a bit later down the track, or b) gives them the opportunity to pursue in a career where different skills are valued.

As I stated above I grew up in the southern suburbs of Adelaide in the 80's when it had a very high proportion of housing trust areas. I left school when I was 16 and couldn't get a decent job until I had a certificate 3 (in Community Services) from Tafe.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes! There is only one Tafe in metropolitan Melbourne offering ceramics now!!

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because in my

work with disadvantaged young people (I worked as a youth worker with Southern Junction Community Services, while I was at university), I have seen many, many young people change their lives through Tafe training. For young people coming from generational disadvantage, Tafe is, for many of them, the ONLY educational opportunity that have. What remains for them without a healthy Tafe system is very bleak. Cutting funding to Tafe is tantamount to imposing a class system where the most disadvantaged in our community are restricted from educational opportunity.

Please, please keep the Tafe system intact.

Submitted by

Anna Mallyon of Brunswick

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Judy Ridgewell, of Indooroopilly make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 60 years old and work as a part time management rights broker, in the postcode of 4068.

I have had the pleasure of a couple of adventures through training at TAFE but was a late-comer - not straight from school but around 40-50 yrs of age. At my first training, I did a course in Management Rights (real estate) to become an on-site residential manager as our transition to retirement. I later took on a course with ESL teaching refugees through Chelmer TAFE. This program trained volunteers like myself to teach English to refugees (mostly women with small children) in their own homes. This volunteer service organised through the TAFE was invaluable to refugees such as the lady I taught for 5 years. She was unable to get to classes with her under school age children.

TAFE provides training for apprenticeships that is far superior to private colleges that are springing up everywhere. But apart from the apprenticeships, TAFE plays a central role as a place where refugees can learn English to enable them to earn a living and get themselves off govt benefits. This TAFE service helps young mothers to be able to shop for food and settle their family in their neighbourhood as well as getting their children to school and understanding what it is their children are doing. There is a lot of adjusting to be done for the refugees who are here.

The ESL teaching that TAFE is supporting is giving all refugees a chance in this country. We can't ignore them and just hope that all will be well. They need assistance. For example, my ESL student was 30 something and had spent most of her life in a refugee camp before arriving in Australia. She could not read or write in her own language. Holding a pencil was completely foreign to her. Our lessons started very humbly but she made great steps forward and it was a social event for her to have someone to visit and teach - and at no cost to the govt but for the initial training I experienced for a few weeks at Chelmer and the organisational skills of the TAFE teachers of ESL at that campus.

TAFE Chelmer went under in the floods and was not replaced. This leaves a large whole in ESL for the area. Yeronga TAFE is still operating as an ESL centre for refugees as I understand it, but the Chelmer Centre is sadly missed.

I have no knowledge of the the standards of private colleges, however, refugees don't have funds to attend private colleges. Their English training and settling is a state government responsibility.

The ESL TAFE at Chelmer wasn't replaced after the flood destroyed it.

If a whole section of the ESL, that is, the western suburbs campus, is not replaced, it surely has had an impact on the coverage available.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because education is the key to moving Australia forward. Without it Australia slides on the scale - a future without education is not much of a future at all.

Thankyou

Submitted by

Judy Ridgewell of Indooroopilly

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Alistair Parr, of Brunswick West make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 35 years old and work as a Boilermaker, in the postcode of 3055.

After the closure of one of the last of the two remaining Tech Schools in Melbourne, mine being one of them, I decided that the pursuit of an Engineering trade would be the most logical vocational step I could take due to the fact that my secondary education was largely but not primarily based on technical trades.

For a passtime I was involved in an organisation that was dedicated towards the restoration of historically significant Steam and Diesel-Electric Locomotives and Rollingstock. I considered this to be in a sense, "homework" or further weekend study.

Looking back on this I now realise that I was probably preparing myself for a life long career in a trade like Fitting/Machining or Boilermaking.

By 1995 I had secured an apprenticeship as a Boilermaker building new locomotives and rollingstock at ABB/Adtranz (now Bombardier) and completed my apprenticeship more than 6 months early due to Basic Certificate in Engineering that I had completed at the end of 1994.

I used this, and the experience and knowledge that I had gained at Tech School, my hobby and pre- apprenticeship TAFE Course and apprenticeship to make sure that I was adequately trained and equipped for what would come in later years as a tradesperson.

It is ABSOLUTELY vital. I wouldn't have half the tradesperson that I am, and I wouldn't possess anywhere near the knowledge that I have without TAFE.

You only have to look at the level of so called skilled labour that is being imported from south east asia to realise just how beneficial the TAFE system is.

You only have to look at countries that don't have a TAFE system to realise that the removal of such a system would cripple our engineering capability.

Ever since the introduction of the 457 work visa system, the engineering industry has been crammed with partially or semi skilled labour with extremely limited theoretical and practical abilities.

In this time I have quite often found myself educating 457s on the most basic and simple fundamentals of engineering. Some of them were lacking the most basic knowledge imaginable. I recall on one occasion I found myself not only teaching a 457 the barest basics of measurement. In fact, so limited was the depth of knowledge with

the individual in question, that I had to teach this person that there was 1000mm to a metre.

In engineering, the right education and aptitude is essential and the labour we're importing into this country simply does not have the right knowledge and education to meet the criteria for Australian Standards.

The only way to achieve and maintain Australian Standards is to have people that were educated and trained to work to Australian Standards.

The example I used of teaching a 457 that there is a 1000mm to a metre is only an example, because as Engineering Tradespeople we learn far more than just the basic dynamics of measurement. If you were to look at Boilermaking, during our apprenticeships we study countless welding and fabrication modules, engineering drafting modules, material science, statistical process control - you name it.

If the powers that be think the removal of this system is going to somehow be beneficial in regards to maintaining high engineering standards and manufacturing capability, I hate to say it, they're sadly mistaken.... In fact, probably leaning more towards deluded than mistaken actually.

To become a tradesperson I did more than 8000 hours of theoretical and practical training, all of which had to comply with the set benchmark to ensure that I could do my job proficiently. And looking back on all of the training, that I and many others undertook as apprentices to become what we are, we wouldn't have it any other way. Why would we? We know what we're doing.

Removing or even tampering with the TAFE system would be far worse than the

removal Tech Schools (a move that our country now regrets) it would put manufacturing and engineering in our straight back to the dark ages. Smart move? I think not.

Second chance? It gave every person I know that completed a trade the first chance to receive a first class education and first class training.

N/A.

Yes.

Yes.

Half the price, half the training - half the depth, half the quality & knowledge.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because cutting it back will have an extremely detrimental effect on our Manufacturing and Engineering capability... It's as simple as that/ Better quality workers with superior training are capable of ten times more than partially qualified, semi skilled kick alongs. Fact.

Submitted by

Alistair Parr of Brunswick West

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Jenni Downes, of Oak Flats make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 39 years old and work as a Teacher, in the postcode of 2529.

I have completed 5 qualifications at TAFE, and am currently enrolled in the AGMC Grad Cert in Management. I also have many family members who have developed great skills which have lead to employment.

TAFE is important in so many ways. Not only do we provide students with practical employments skills, we get people job force ready. We assist the students with getting a routine, arranging child care and support so that students learn to attend classes and can then have the support system ready to join the workforce. We also support them in times of stress, provide strategies and build their confidence. These life skills are not provided at University or in small RTO's.

I also worked with ORTA during the 2000 Olympics, we used TAFE as the training provider. I was asked to attend Greece to assist with their games, I declined. They did not have a Government supported educational system. Needless to say the training failed. Look at the results we achieved with a fabulous succinct Training service.

As a single parent I realised that I needed to get myself retrained. At the age of 31 I went back to TAFE and retrained. Got my life together and am now highly employable. TAFE provided me with childcare and the payment was minimal. I gained so much confidence and am now able to pass the same experience on to my students.

I live in Wollongong, there are several RTO's available. However these RTO's cannot compete with TAFE. I have neices, nephews and many friends who rely on TAFE for a chance for employment. If TAFE is not supported they will not gain the skills to enter the workplace. TAFE is their only opportunity to gain skills.

I have worked with poorly regulated RTO's. They do not have the funding, experience nor the scope to deliver all the other support services that TAFE has to offer. TAFE is not just about passing on vocational skills, we provide personal support, we care, we dress them, encourage them, and assist in finding work. Private RTO's pay their staff the most minimal wages they cannot afford to work with one organisation, and do not have the time nor the support to provide the other important needs of the student.

AND I work in Accounting, how many experience Accounting teachers are you going to find who will leave their high paying jobs to work with a private RTO to be paid \$25 an hour. The skills and experience are lacking in RTO's due to the low wages.

Yes..... Cuts to courses, no advertising!!!!???

Low student rate, no advertising???

No money to update resources.

And an ageing workforce that need to be offered VR and sent on their way. To make way for the younger, enthusiastic teachers.

The rumour, fear, loss of direction makes the workplace a difficult place to work. Morale is low, students are feeling the effects as they are not getting all of the benefits that were available to students 2 years ago.

If we do not save TAFE we will be cheating our future generation of an opportunity to gain valuable skills. Private RTO's will not be able to provide the services that TAFE has to offer.

Submitted by

Jenni Downes of Oak Flats

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Tascha Hill, of Avoca Beach make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 42 years old and work as a Home duties, in the postcode of 2251.

I became a Tafe student and did my trade as a beauty Therapist the training was awesome and gave me a career. After having 4 children I decided my passion has always been art , I spent the last three years at Ourimbah Tafe doing Art being taught by the most amazing teachers, quality hands on craft , we have done sculpture , design, painting , drawing, and printmaking ... So wonderful . This year they have offered diploma at a cost of 11 thousands dollars...

Tafe is the backbone of Australian adult education.if you don't want to go to university, Tafe is a natural choice.

Education is must for everyone in Australia

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Absolutely

Tafe is a mess....teachers loosing jobs and \$1100 fees

Refer to example of this question all true

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦unless the government wants a stupid , uneducated Australia fund Tafe now!!!!!!!!!!

Submitted by

Tascha Hill of Avoca Beach

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Jannette Elliott, of Wattle Grove make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 51 years old and work as a full time teacher, in the postcode of 2173.

I was trained at Tafe and my son did his apprenticeship at tafe and now my daughter is doing her cert 4 and hopefully a diploma at tafe. I am truly worried about how my next child is going to be able to do training should anything happen to Tafe .I was one of seven children and in those days tafe was free thankfully as I dont know what would have become of all my brothers and sisters if it had not been so. At the moment with the fees continually rising I dont know if I can afford tafe any more!!

As a teacher myself I know that I have to constantly keep up to date with what industry wants and so I try to make myself available for trade shows conferences and re training in aspects of my course that are technologically changing all the time

As I may be in this boat myself in the near future I am looking at retraining in other areas TAFE is quite flexible and also the chance to have recognition of previous learning or on site training has to be a great advantage to any prospective student

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means students can access information quite readily. Having taught in a regional post many years ago TAFE really was the life support for a lot of people in the community where networking really did happen and staff did frequently have regional staff developments so that they could stay in the loop with what was going on in the bigger centres. If the TAFE colleges were to close their doors regional areas would be drastically affected and TAFE would run the risk of not being reliable or fair to country colleges (as would the metropolitan centres also)

Only from what I have heard in the media but they charge phenomenal fees also

I am the "working Poor!" I work full time and have to pay full fare for my kids education. The so called out of work people only have to pay \$100 for their fee and guess what if the government were serious and the students who are course exempt were fair dinkum about studying and getting a job why do they not complete their course??? Why not make them pay up front and give them the incentive to actually complete their course and in doing so they then get reimbursed or like uni make them pay back the money when they get a job oohh then they probably would not want to do that as then they might actually have to get out of bed to go to work like the rest of us working poor. This has been my personal observation for the last say 15 years

Class sizes and cutting back hours for delivery is a huge problem impacted by the poor quality of literacy of students that may be an isolated problem, fees or student resource fee also is kept minimal otherwise we probably wouldn't have any students which

makes running the section very difficult

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because in my region the level of student in basic numeracy and literacy is appalling and trying to get students through our course with reduced hours is like trying to flog a dead horse Not only am I an interpreter but a mediator a teacher a support person and totally exhausted by the end of the lesson!!!!

Submitted by

Jannette Elliott of Wattle Grove

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Mary Fell, of Blaxland make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 59 years old and work as a Casemanager, in the postcode of 2774.

My son has completed a cert 4 in disability studies and is in the middle of an outdoor recreation cert. He has secured a position as a disability support worker and was recently offered a position as a coordinator. He now enjoys study and can't wait finish his second TAFE course and commence another. My husband is taking a break from teaching to complete a horticulture certificate which he finds challenging and comprehensive.

Variety of courses and good teacher support ensures students can find something to their liking and can achieve their goals .A TAFE certificate opens up a huge range of employment opportunities and employers trust TAFE because the standards are high and consistent.

No but my son decided on TAFE because it was practical not theoretical. Uni courses did not provide the type of course to prepare him for disability and recreation courses. He has had numerous job opportunities and this will continue.

Blue Mountains TAFE has exceptional dedicated teachers and services a large area. Some students travel from the city for some of the courses offered.

I have been told there are some but have no details however in Victoria this is the case and I believe sound research shows that the private colleges offer very poor service in comparison with TAFE

Yes my son has returned to complete his outdoor recreation certificate after putting it on hold for two years due to broken bones. Now he will not be able to complete his canyoning component as this is no longer offered due to budget cuts. Canyoning is a major tourist activity in the Blue Mountains and offers a lot of employment. There is now a big gap in his units studied and he will be less employable in this field as a result.

Less choice of courses, less units offered in the courses.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it offers a very high standard of education and is critical to our workforce. Affordable TAFE education reduces unemployment and social problems and is an investment in the future

Submitted by

Mary Fell of Blaxland

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Fay Jubb, of Moorebank make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 68 years old and work as a retired TAFE teacher, in the postcode of 2170.

My son received a diploma at TAFE which meant he was able to fast track into the police force. As a teacher I saw countless lives changed by access to second chance education in particular.

Our courses emphasized employability skills so our training gave skills for the present and adaptability for the future.

The equivalent year 10 study helped students to have a second chance to get into jobs such as the Defence Forces. The HSC and TAFE's equivalents helped those who because of personal problems were unable to go back to school or were too mature.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

This has always been a problem. PArt time teachers often came to us with stories about how poorly these were organized. Their teachers were often poorly trained- if at all.

I am now retired but from speaking to my old colleagues they see cuts beginning to have an effect on the courses offered.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€so many people do not need, nor are they suited to, university education. Yet our workforce needs skills to keep up with the modern world of work.

Submitted by

Fay Jubb of Moorebank

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Marjorie Allen, of Morpeth make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 60 years old and work as a TAFE teacher, in the postcode of 2321.

I have taught part-time literacy/numeracy and communications at TAFE for 25 years and have watched hundreds of students succeed in improving their skills and moving into the workforce. Without the employability skills and confidence they acquired at TAFE and the many contacts they made they could have remained on welfare like some of their parents.

The quality of education provided by TAFE and the support and work experience enhancing the learning mean a skilled workforce. The learners become teachers with the skills and confidence to employ and train apprentices with TAFE support.

Unskilled workers retrenched from an industry have been trained in trades and gone

on to full-time employment and in some instances to be self-employed.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means people with financial barriers are able to improve their chances of employment by having educational opportunities available.

Private providers do not have the funds to employ highly trained teachers. The standards cannot be maintained when the bottom line is the business and not the education.

Opportunities are diminishing, especially for socially and economically disadvantaged people. Australia is becoming more elitist. This means a society that misses much talent and demands more welfare dollars. As courses disappear and campuses close so depression, drug addiction and crime increase.

Without State funding for literacy courses the opportunities for disadvantaged people are minimal.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because a clever society means high employment levels, greater personal responsibility and self actualization. Surely a wealthy country like Australia should pride itself on extensive educational opportunities for all.

Submitted by

Marjorie Allen of Morpeth

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Melanie Todd, of Killarney Vale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 41 years old and work as a Tafe student, in the postcode of 2261.

I am currently enrolled full time at tafe and will be working toward starting my own business. Tafe cuts mean, I am now put further at a disadvantage and will have a loan to pay back. My 14 year old son has aspirations for the IT industry and he will most like attend tafe for this. His generation are facing a very tough job market where further education is critical!!

Education = Skilled workers. Not that long ago the government were crying out for skilled workers, that the country is lacking. Have they forgotten?

I don't have the employment figures but am sure we will have a bigger problem if our kids are not educated and skilled.

I personally have been able to find work as a direct result of a Tafe course. My husband was able to get his life back on course when he was in his twenties after to a Tafe trade certificate. My son's now 11 and 14 both have aspiration that require further education.

My husband had a work injury two years ago and can no longer work and I receive carer's pension for our 11 year old autistic son. Our pensions cover the bills (most of the time). So paying for a private course or up front would cause us great financial hardship. We are in a regional area and some course are not available at our local Tafe. Neither of my sons both in the autism spectrum would be able to catch public transport. I would have to drive them. If I have to drive for over an hour for them to attend I would have to wonder if it was worth me doing a two hour plus trip to have to turn around and go straight back.

I would not go through a collage that your Qualifications were not recognized. I did believe Tafe was a higher standard, but I have to wonder when the course I am currently doing is costing \$200 an hour and providing less teaching. (Have a look what Diploma of Visual or fine Art class time used to be).

YES. I am currently enrolled in Visual Arts Diploma. The face to face class time for this course has been slash and the PRIVATE fee is over \$12,000. This fee equates to \$200 YES \$200 dollars an hour. OUTRAGOUS !! I am also enrolled in Photo imaging through New England TAFE. I had to do both because this course will have full fee next year. I want a career that I love and have time for my family who rely on me to keep everything working. I wouldn't be able to travel further because of my care role.

The number of people who applied for our course was almost too low for the course to go ahead. Only by having four late applications did it go ahead. Also someone stuffed

up big time. When I applied in November 2012 it was listed at my local Tafe but in January it was listed for Newcastle, so people looking to enroll would not have found it. I was told by a fellow student that they had to apply through the Newcastle Tafe and that the Newcastle students had to apply through Ourimbah. When our teacher went to query enrolment details of students the admin couldn't find the course. Admin also knew nothing about Tafe courses going full fee paying and couldn't be of any help when setting up student loans.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because

1. I personally feel a lot of pressure of a 12,000 loan looming over my head. Most people would not pay that and would miss the chance of having a better life.
2. We need a skilled workforce
3. Our children need further education if they are to have a chance of ever getting a job
4. WE PAY TAX, the future of Australia depends on the next generation. WHAT MESSAGE IS OUR GOVERNMENT SENDING! This is what it sounds like to these kids and their parents. WE DON'T CARE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIA !!!

Submitted by

Melanie Todd of Killarney Vale

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Danielle Schriever, of Adelaide make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 37 years old and work as a photographer, in the postcode of 5000.

I have studied at TAFE completing the Advanced Diploma in Photography (commercial). I want TAFE to still be around and accessible to me and others in the future.

TAFE is a pathway for learning and to better ones skills to find work. It is also much cheaper than university so therefore allows people with less funds to study and better themselves.

TAFE has given me the skills to start my own business, without what I have learnt through tafe the industry I have chosen to work in would be difficult.

Yes indeed. I have heard of some friends doing private courses that have left them with huge debts.

TAFE cuts will effect many people in the future that wish to study.

TAFE funding is hugely important to people with little funds that wish to better themselves and get the skills to put them in a better position for their working future!! Cutting funds means less resources for students, this is NOT a good thing!!!

Submitted by

Danielle Schriever of Adelaide

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, JOY KELLETT, of MORPHETT VALE make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 39 years old and work as a Personal Helper & Mentor, in the postcode of 5161.

I have studied two CIV through TAFE in the last three years. This helped me change my career path and I want to study more through TAFE.

In my role as a Personal Helper and Mentor, I assist participants in fulfilling their goals. I have helped numerous people personally and through my work to enrol, attend and successfully complete TAFE qualifications. Motivations vary from person to person, some are wanting to improve their employment prospects, pay, quality of education and life through achieving a qualification that is recognised throughout Australia.

TAFESTart and Skills for All gives people the opportunity to grow and develop as students. TAFE has the infrastructure to provide and offer the widest range of courses across Australia. Without the continuity of this opportunity across the country from a

leading Institute like TAFE, many individuals would not be able to fulfil their educational ambitions and contribute to a strong Australian economy and workforce.

I started studying again in my mid 30's. It gave me not only the education, but skills that I had been missing for most of my adult life and created a pathway into University and a new career. And now my study and work focus is pointing back to the TAFE system, as I see a need for students with special needs to be supported in the TAFE system, because at the moment they are being let down.

I am very concerned that the services and support that TAFE has offered to students in the past to be successful in their studies will be compromised due to funding cuts. TAFE has always offered facilities, resources, the infrastructure and a community in which students have been able to thrive in completing their studies.

Less Counsellors and Student Services to help students across the board but in particular the new students that skills for all has attracted - this is an issue of equity and TAFE should be able to provide support services along with high quality teaching resources and lecturers.

Cuts to staffing means that TAFE employees are under stress and this stress is passed down to the students, and effects their ability to achieve and possibly even complete their study.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE sets the benchmark for all other RTO's and it still needs to be a leader not merely a competitor.

Submitted by

JOY KELLETT of MORPHETT VALE

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Michael Zangmeister, of Blackburn North make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 54 years old and work as a TAFE Teacher , in the postcode of 3130.

I've taught and completed other educational work in the TAFE system for 30 years now. I have been involved in helping hundreds of students achieve a successful education in their chosen field; often these were students who were seen as failures by other educational providers. Those same students went on to successful careers.

TAFE delivers for students and for industry, because the training is 'hands-on'. The trainers are more often than not industry based themselves. The skillsets are live and they are real, grounded in professional practice. TAFE is often the start of a successful engagement with tertiary education, often by people who viewed themselves as 'too dumb' for University.

TAFE has provided many students who had been written off by their secondary school another chance, one which has often lead either to further study, or a job. I've been fortunate to see this happen often, including this year. One of my students from last year came from a refugee background in Bosnia; this year she was named as our Institute's Vocational Student of the Year. TAFE can do that.

The fact that in recent times the number of RTOs in Victoria has decreased by nearly 400 shows that there were some providers who shouldn't have been operating or receiving public money to operate. Nor should public money be put into organisations who register as RTOs in order to receive training subsidies to train their own staff. The qualifications are often bogus; even if the training hasn't been shonky, it's been highly contextualised, to the extent that the student can really only work within that organisation. This defeats the aim of proper competency based training; it shouldn't be allowed.

We are losing good staff needlessly, and not by choice. Fees increases are making study options difficult, if not impossible for students who don't meet the eligibility criteria, or whose courses aren't able to attract the FEE-HELP option. Capital works and maintenance will suffer and support services are being cut back. Our most vulnerable students will become even more vulnerable.

The number of students with mental health issues has increased and is predicted to continue to increase; support services are at risk. How does disenfranchising these students make any sense? How are they expected to learn to look after themselves, if we can't assist them to learn a trade, or build a career? How will this create a cohesive society? How will this address the hallmarks of a civilised society, one which aspires to liberate the potential of all it's members and truly value all individuals?

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the failure to do will be a shameful betrayal of the historic background of the TAFE sector, which grew out of the Mechanics Institutes and guilds of trades. TAFE is the natural offspring of working people building their own educational institutions in order to build better lives for themselves, their children and their communities. Don't sell this proud legacy out! Don't betray this history of more than a century of struggle for betterment!

Submitted by

Michael Zangmeister of Blackburn North

Wednesday 17th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Phillip Chadwick, of Mount Pritchard make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 50 years old and work as a TAFE Teacher, in the postcode of 2170.

I am an Electrician by trade, I received my qualification at age nineteen. In 1990 I changed careers and became a teacher of electrical trades at TAFE NSW. The quality of the training I received during my apprenticeship inspired me to become a teacher. Both of my sons are following in my footsteps and are enrolled at TAFE in electrical trades courses.

TAFE has a long and proud history of providing quality training regardless of an individual's socioeconomic or cultural background. Not just in trades and vocational areas but in foundation skills as well. Australia has a skills shortage, state run TAFE systems are playing a vital role in addressing these shortages. Australians if given an affordable opportunity to learn necessary skills move out unemployment to fill

the skill shortage positions. The cost burden of social security is therefore reduced while at the same time a tax revenue stream is created possibly for a lifetime. The cost of this training is an investment in Australia's future.

In my 23 year role as a TAFE teacher I have seen countless people of all ages gain work through the opportunity that TAFE provided. I have assisted older individuals who have been retrenched in areas such as fitting and machine to be retrained as electricians. At the other end of the scale I have watched younger high school drop outs enter into what used to be called a pre-apprenticeship program, graduate, become licensed electricians and finally start a successful electrical contracting business. The favour is then returned when years later they return to TAFE to enrol their own apprentices.

At a recent staff meeting my head teacher was told by faculty "that TAFE was no longer in the business of education, we are now in the business of qualifications, education is now a secondary priority. If it occurs during the process that will be a value added outcome. We need to take this approach to compete with the private providers". These comments are deeply distressing. The recent COAG reforms have seen a dramatic rise in the number of private providers. State governments have learned nothing from Victorian TAFE reform disasters. It will soon be all about cash for qualifications.

Recently I heard a radio advertisement promising instant results and trouble free building qualifications guaranteed. The harsh reality is that skills once acquired need to be practiced over time for the student to become a master. Fast and cheap training is not the long term solution to Australia's skills shortage.

I live and teach at TAFE in Sydney's south western suburbs, the NSW's

government's decision to cut TAFE funding comes just one year before they follow the Victorian experiment in privatization of TAFE funding. Across NSW 800 experienced full time TAFE teachers are set to lose their jobs. In my institute courses are being rationalized, this means the number of locations at which a particular subject is being delivered is reduced. Students will need to travel further to attend classes, resulting in lower demand and further closures. All in the name of making TAFE more competitive with private providers in the new funding model. Interestingly private companies such as McDonald's and Woolworth's don't make their customers travel long distances to purchase their wares in the way TAFE NSW plans to.

Governments have a responsibility to the people to ensure that public money is spent to deliver the best possible outcomes for the TAFE students of Australia. The current COAG Partnership agreement is not conducive of this. At risk is billions of dollars of tax payers money being channelled into private providers profits rather than insuring all Australians have equitable access to high quality vocational education and training which has real value not just resulting in a piece of paper. The qualification gained must be accompanied with actual skills otherwise the cost of the training whoever provides it is worthless.

Regulation of the new competitive VET market will come at a hefty price. As more examples of improper practices are detected the complexity of the Australian Skills Quality Authority will need to follow. How much more funding will need to be diverted away from students and into regulators such as ASQA and their state counterparts to "keep the bastards honest"? Would it not make more sense to just provide adequate recurrent funding of TAFE and let my fellow teachers and I get on with our jobs, teaching skills to Australia.

Submitted by

Phillip Chadwick of Mount Pritchard

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, jo Brandis, of Denmark make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 55 years old and i have 2 grown up children 33 and 37 they both missed on any training due to the howard govt years now its all about to happen again i could write a novel on how it all happened but if we let Abbott the idiot rabbit in it will be the same story for the next generation the campaing should be about what the liberals dont do for the future and tell all the bloody labour polititians to play on the same team we are voting for the team not one person get youe act together. dissapointed labour supporter.

Submitted by

jo Brandis of Denmark

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, , of Preston make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 51 years old and work as a Teacher, in the postcode of 3072.

I teach in TAFE

I see how it transforms the lives of new migrants who hope to contribute to Australia

A student originally from Ethiopia who had worked as a taxi driver for 20 years was injured in a car accident. He became depressed and was unable to work. Through his experience of being helped through his illness he decided to return to study English and Community Services Work so he in turn could help others. He found work in the community where he could use his language and feel that he could work in a useful role again.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes - students from CALD backgrounds being offered cheap and short Childcare qualifications for which they are not well trained or prepared and therefore are unable to find employment once they have The Certificate.

Smaller classes cancelled

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it provides opportunities and quality training not available elsewhere.

Submitted by

of Preston

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Robert Payne, of EagleVale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 30 years old and work as a occupational therapist, in the postcode of 2558.

As an ex-teacher and ex-student of TAFE, I know how important TAFE is to so many profession in Australia. Without a well funded TAFE the education of those who live in disadvantaged areas will suffer. Those who cannot afford to pay large fees will be the ones to miss out.

TAFE provides the best early childhood workers in the industry, they provide the best training and practical work in NSW. Without TAFE, the abilities of future workers will suffer.

TAFE allowed me to leave school and enter into a workforce that I love.

TAFE in Campbelltown is important as so many of the students are from disadvantaged families and it is a way of breaking the cycle of poverty

All the private colleges that provide early childhood qualifications provide terrible students. So many of the graduates I have encountered are woefully unprepared for the workforce. Many do not understand the basics of child development, let alone the intricacies of disability work. The private colleges do not provide students with anywhere near the level of training required to prepare a student for the early childhood field.

I have notice that Campbelltown TAFE has been affected by budget cuts in the following ways:

Terrible physical environment

no heating

no cooling

less hours for teaching

less hours for co-ordination

teachers seem more stressed

teachers have less time for students

no on site counselors

desks and chairs in poor state of repair

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because NSW will suffer without it. We will have higher unemployment and less well trained workers

Submitted by

Robert Payne of EagleVale

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Karen Vaughan, of St Marys make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 50 years old and work as a lecturer, in the postcode of 2007.

I left school when I was 15, I had no interest in formal education. I went to the TAFE Eora Centre when I was in my 20's (as did my older sister) and this led me to university.

TAFE is unprecedented in bridging the gap between school (especially if you have had a negative schooling experience) and university study or gaining real qualifications and skills for employment options.

I have 3 close family members who had no interest in school, who later went to TAFE and from this were encouraged to attend university (all are now in full time employment in education).

I do not live in a regional area, but agree that any cuts to TAFE courses in these areas will have a negative impact.

I work with adult students from remoter areas. There is a feeling that some of the private RTO's are running certificate IV courses over an extremely short timeframe and the quality of these are questionable. It is difficult to believe that a course usually run for a term by TAFE at an affordable price can be adequately delivered over a weekend by a private provider who charges significantly more to accredit their students.

There is an unease about whether successful programs will be able to continue and the impact this will have on job security and access to higher education for students from less affluent families.

The devaluing of the TAFE system has led to staff and student anxieties and threatens the partnerships and goodwill that TAFE's have established with local employers.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it has and should continue to make a difference. TAFE's offer unique pathways into further education, employment - and career changes for young to mature aged adults. Without access to TAFE I would have returned to education, and would not have the career I have now.

Submitted by

Karen Vaughan of St Marys

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Melissa Miller, of Brunswick make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 31 years old and work as a Teacher of Jewellery at TAFE, in the postcode of 3056.

I migrated to Australia from the United States, where there is no national system comparable to TAFE. The affordable, high quality skills training offered by TAFE is an extremely valuable alternative to university.

For the past four years I have taught jewellery and silversmithing at TAFE. I have taught students who have struggled with financial issues, but they were able to study at TAFE. I have taught students who have struggled with physical and mental illness, but they were supported by flexible study options, student counselling and support services at TAFE to complete their studies. I have taught students who chose TAFE over university because what TAFE offers is different, and they wanted to focus on the

technical skills that are taught comprehensively at TAFE.

An argument has been made that creative courses in TAFE are not worthwhile. Indeed, the state of NSW removed all funding from fine arts courses in TAFE in January of this year under the argument that there are low employment outcomes for arts graduates.

Employment outcomes for visual artists are varied and not always immediately measurable. Outcomes include self-employment and professional involvement in an interdependent web of businesses and services in the arts industry. The arts sector contributes over \$30 billion a year to the Australian economy, around 2.8% of Australia's GDP.¹

A strong, diverse and committed education sector including both university programs and creative design-based TAFE courses contributes to a strong jewellery community and arts culture in Victoria. However this is now under threat from the Victorian government's funding cuts to TAFE. Melbourne is known both nationally and internationally for its vibrant contemporary jewellery community and innovation in contemporary jewellery and the arts. TAFE courses like the Diploma and Advanced Diploma of Jewellery provide pathways to professional practice as a jewellery artist, further study at university, and opportunities in jewellery design and business. TAFE graduates from the department I teach in have started their own jewellery design businesses, become exhibiting artists, opened galleries or jewellery shops, become teachers, or expanded their innovation through further study at university or through higher degrees. Graduates of the 2012 Advanced Diploma of Jewellery make up 41% of the new enrolments in the Gold & Silversmithing program at RMIT University this year. 87% of these are graduates of the institution I teach at.

In the words of playwright David Williamson, "Creativity has to be learned just like anything else." As he points out, "Our society needs artists, and artists need training."²

As part of the Victorian funding cuts, for the first time, private for-profit colleges now receive the same funding as TAFEs.³ As a society we must seriously question the benefits of using public funds to subsidise for-profit organisations. TAFEs provide community service obligations such as student counselling and libraries which private for-profit registered training organisations (RTOs) are not required to provide. We have seen how failures in regulating the private training sector have resulted in students who have not been given adequate training receiving qualifications as a means for some private providers to obtain government funds. The 7:30 Report highlighted the alleged misappropriation of government funding by some private training colleges in programs on 8 and 9 August 2012.⁴ These students have been done a great injustice: they are unable to find jobs, and unable to access a second government-supported place in TAFE to retrain.

The Victorian government has argued that the TAFE cuts are addressing a spending blowout in the Victorian training budget, but it has been shown that the increase in spending was caused by the increase in funding to private providers and complications resulting from fraudulent practices in a poorly regulated private sector. State government funding was opened up to private RTOs in 2009, meaning TAFEs had to compete with private providers for government funding. A June 2012 submission from the Victorian TAFE Association to the Australian Education Union shows, using publicly available statistics taken from the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, that from 2008 to 2011 the number of private RTOs more

than doubled, and during that time there was a 308% growth in student enrolments in the private sector (166,586 additional enrolments), while the TAFE sector's growth was 4% (12,404 additional enrolments). 5,6

TAFEs have considerations other than the bottom line, including providing pathways for disadvantaged youth, running high-quality training in a wide range of industries, and addressing skills shortages. These functions offer wide benefits to individual students and Australian society and are not matched by private providers.

The role of TAFE is to provide affordable, accessible, high quality education and skills training for all Australians. The Victorian government's funding cuts fundamentally undermine the role of TAFE.

My department has been granted 12 months to run a course that is being superseded by a new national curriculum, which takes us to the end of 2013. When the national curriculum is implemented in 2014, we expect fees to rise by 50%, making the annual cost of the course around \$9000. This course is popular, profitable, and demonstrates outcomes in employment, self-employment and pathways to further study. Despite this, we expect to lose a significant percentage of students due to fee increases. We may be forced to drop from two classes per year level to one. We may have current students who are unable to finish their studies due to the fee increase. We may not have sufficient enrolments to run the course at all: this will depend on whether students are able to pay the dramatic increase in fees.

Meanwhile, for the first time in four years of working as a sessional teacher at this TAFE, my hours have been cut. A decrease in numbers in a separate course in our

department has required full time teachers of that course to shift into teaching the Advanced Diploma of Jewellery. This has reduced the need for sessional teachers, and the working hours of myself and other regular sessional teachers, who have taught between 1 and 3 days per week over the past several years, have been reduced, with further reductions expected.

Morale is low among teachers, staff and students. Just over a year ago the department was brimming with excitement about developing and implementing the new national curriculum. For four years I have waited for the opportunity of an ongoing position to arise, working other jobs to supplement my passion for teaching. As we realise the impact of the cuts and face the real possibility of dramatic downsizing or course closure, sessional teachers like myself are forced to look for other career options. Permanent teachers struggle to find the motivation to write course material for a new national curriculum which may never see the light of day. Teachers who have given the institution years of service now speak fearfully about their future: there will be no other teaching jobs to apply for if these jobs go. Teachers are worried about their families and mortgages, and see no support coming from the Victorian government.

The Victorian government's \$300 million funding cuts represent the largest funding cut to TAFE in history and have affected 80% of Victorian TAFE courses.⁷

The Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) released figures in January 2013 showing a 25.8% drop in TAFE applications this year. The figures also show that 170 fewer TAFE courses are being offered this year.⁸

The Victorian government's cuts fundamentally undermine the state's COAG obligations and commitment to tertiary skills education. Jobs have been lost, courses

have been cut and campuses have closed. Courses that are still running, such as the program I teach, face an uncertain future over the next year.

According to the Centre for Policy Development, the TAFE sector is doing more to address Australia's skills shortages than private providers, TAFE is the main provider of training outside metropolitan areas, and TAFE serves a disproportionate share of students with disabilities. In the occasional paper *Valuing Skills - Why Vocational Training Matters*, the CPD reports that the VET sector confers substantial benefits to individuals, the economy, and society, and estimates that TAFEs provide a strong return on investment of government funding.⁹

Once courses and campuses have closed and assets sold, it will be extremely difficult to reinstate courses and jobs. The accessible skills training provided by TAFE must be prioritised and protected before it's too late.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because when we de-fund education, we're de-funding our future. Australia needs a well-educated and skilled population and TAFE is the affordable, accessible means of providing that. TAFE is well-regulated and provides consistent education standards nationwide. TAFE meets community service obligations such as students counselling and offers flexible study arrangements to meet the needs of a diverse student body and provide training to all Australians. These obligations are not met by private training providers.

A healthy, properly funded education sector provides the foundation for innovation, quality and diversity in the arts, and across society. The state government of Victoria has fundamentally undermined the COAG agreement on TAFE funding. We are now

depending on the federal government to affirm that the accessible skills training provided by TAFE is essential to a vibrant, diverse and capable Australian society and to ensure funding levels reflect this commitment to the education of future generations of students - before it's too late.

—

—

1. Centre for International Economics 2009, Creative industries economic analysis: final report, Australian Policy Online, accessed 16 April 2013 <<http://apo.org.au/research/creative-industries-economic-analysis-final-report>>.
2. Williamson, David 2012, The Dismal Future of Creative Arts Education, ArtsHub, accessed 16 April 2013 <<http://au.artshub.com/au/news-article/opinions/arts/the-dismal-future-of-creative-arts-education-192729>>.
3. Topsfield, Jewel 2012, Minister breaks ranks, The Age, accessed 16 April 2013 <<http://www.theage.com.au/national/education/minister-breaks-ranks-20120502-1xzqx.html>>.
4. Meldrum-Hanna, Caro 2012, Vocational Training faces Fleecing and Cuts, 7:30, accessed 16 April 2013 <<http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2012/s3562790.htm>> and Meldrum-Hanna, Caro 2012, Vocational education regulators face more testing times, 7:30, accessed 16 April 2013 <<http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2012/s3563622.htm>>.
5. Williams, David, 2012, Funding cuts to TAFE “ Impacts on GippsTAFE, LaTrobe

Valley and Gippsland as a whole, Australian Education Union, accessed 16 April 2013
<http://www.aeufederal.org.au/Tafe/GippsTAFE.pdf>.

6. Victorian Training Market Report Quarter 1 2012, Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, accessed 21 August 2012
<http://www.skills.vic.gov.au/Documents/Publications/Research%20and%20Reports/Training%20Market%20Reports/Victorian-Training-Market-Report-Q1-2012-web.pdf>.

7. Topsfield, Jewel 2012, TAFEs hit hard, courses to be cut, The Age, accessed 16 April 2013 <
<http://www.theage.com.au/national/education/tafes-hit-hard-courses-to-be-cut-20120501-1xxab.html>>.

8. Preiss, Benjamin and Butt, Craig 2013, TAFE offers reveal extent of cuts, The Age, accessed 16 April 2013 <
<http://www.theage.com.au/national/education/tafe-offers-reveal-extent-of-cuts-20130118-2cz0j.html>>.

9. Stone, Chris 2012, Valuing Skills – Why vocational training matters, Centre for Policy Development, accessed 16 April 2013 <
<http://cpd.org.au/2012/11/valuing-skills/>>.

Submitted by

Melissa Miller of Brunswick

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, SABIHA MCGOWAN, of BELLINGEN make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 49 years old and work as a childcare worker, in the postcode of 2454.

I attended Tafe fulltime for 2 years in the early 1990's after arriving in Australia as a migrant. I was a qualified primary school teacher in my birth country but was unable to teach here. I became a qualified child care worker and worked in the industry for the last 20 years. I am now attending university to gain my Bachelor in Teaching EC and have gained credits from my tafe studies. Without attending tafe and gaining the qualification I did, I would not have been able to attend university and my quality of living would have been totally different over the last 20 years.

Tafe is a stepping stone for someone wanting a university qualification. It is also the only means available for those unable to cope with university study - it allows people in our society to gain a qualification or skill to better their lives and their family life.

Without tafe the poor in our society will remain less educated maintaining their standard of living at the poverty line - dependent on welfare - prone to drugs / alcohol / domestic violence / obesity / teenage pregnancies / mental health problems / homelessness - young people need tafe - do not take it away - instead increase its funding - our society is aging - it is dependent on skilled and educated young people working

my nephew did not do well at school - had mental health problems for 4 years - worked after leaving school - worked up the courage to attend tafe to do a computer course - and is now happily employed in the industry - in sydney - leaving his small town behind

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...a lot to our young people who have not achieved the grade to enter university - to our migrant population and to our refugee population - these people may not be as educated or know English as well - tafe is a less daunting alternative to university - it offers hands on practical skill application to its courses -

working in child care - there would be students on practicum from private colleges - the standard of their learning and the degree of application to the work was deplorable - Tafe students were always better informed, more enthusiastic and could apply themselves more efficiently.

yes - education is the backbone of any highly functioning society - the government know this - more money into education means a working society with better returns and less spent in health reforms - drug and alcohol programs / homeless shelters / public housing / foster care / welfare programs / protective services - police & ambulance -

unemployment - poverty - homelessness leads to unsafe neighbourhoods / poor parenting / increased school drop-outs / poor education for the young / poor nutrition - obesity - dental caries - diabetes - increased sexual activity by the young leading to teenage pregnancies -

Tafe opens doors for our people - young and old

responsible governments dont cut education - they increase the possibilities - it is our vote that puts them in - and our taxes that pays their wages - they are all the same - they get in there with their dogmas - and then proceed to drop them - when will we get politicians that are truly humanitarians - sometimes i believe i should get into politics - we need people politicians - who listen to the people - and truly care about the poor and downtrodden in our society - not just get dressed up and wine / dine and travel with the big guns - we need passionate people who care about the young , elderly and disabled in our society

- less affordable - less teachers - less courses

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the evidence is there about the cost to benefit returns on a well educated society - if we are to maintain our standard of living - we need to keep educating our young - so they work and contribute to our society - so that we can put more into new and innovative programs like national dental care

Submitted by

SABIHA MCGOWAN of BELLINGEN

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Maree O'Halloran, of Surry Hills make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

To whom it may concern

The National Welfare Rights Network is a peak body of 17 agencies across Australia who help people receiving social security payments. This includes people who are unemployed and TAFE students receiving Youth Allowance. We would like to make a submission about the value of TAFE with respect to employment assistance and life time security and opportunities. We cannot complete the submission today and would seek an extension of one week.

Thanks

Maree O'Halloran

Submitted by

Maree O'Halloran of Surry Hills

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Bronwyn Jeffrey, of Cambewarra make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 52 years old and work as a draftsman, in the postcode of 2540.

I have studied at TAFE on two occasions, successfully obtaining the Land & Engineering Survey Drafting Certificate and the Advanced Property Agency Certificate. This has impacted on my employment choices, allowing me where I would like to work as well as who I would like to work for. I have not been unemployed and reliant on government benefits as a result of my further education at TAFE.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means that my children and other young people have the choice to further their education without having to leave the area.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the future of many Australians livelihoods depends on a strong education. We can't let this country go backwards and have more and more people relying on benefits. The government needs to invest money in TAFE and education for the future welfare of communities, otherwise they will be spending it on other problems as a result of poor education.

Submitted by

Bronwyn Jeffrey of Cambewarra

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Kath McKay, of Upwey make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 68 years old and work as a retired, in the postcode of 3158.

I was a teacher and Coordinator in TAFE Gippsland from 1990 until 1993 inclusive.

Based in the LaTrobe Valley during a time of economic depression, I was greatly impressed by the role that TAFE played in helping people help themselves. Amongst my students were many adult women who had followed a familiar path in the Valley: left school early, often at 15, for a menial job or because they were pregnant (sometimes seen as a career path in that area in those times). Years later they would find themselves unpartnered and dependent upon Social Security benefits or unstable partners. Their self-confidence was at an all-time low. The pathway for these women out of their predicament would often start with their local neighbourhood house and some lowkey lessons around things that they related to: i.e. craft. Once they had

mastered the discipline of attending a weekly session in something they found they could do, the Neighbourhood House coordinator would encourage them, often in small groups, to join a more structured learning program such as literacy or numeracy. This would then, in turn, lead to year 12 studies, all still in the comforting surrounds of the neighbourhood house in, say, Morwell or Traralgon or Moe. The next big step, taken with encouragement from their now friends and the neighbourhood house staff, was to come to TAFE and courses in Social & Community Studies. I taught in many, many of these courses and set up study units in Moe, Morwell, Traralgon, Newborough, Leongatha etc. These women, once they had realized they were not dumb, were not useless, actually had a brain and a future, just blossomed as they soaked up knowledge like a sponge, learned new skills, gained confidence and awareness of society. After they had completed their Diploma in ChildCare or Community Studies or Welfare or Disability care or Aged Care or some other discipline, they went out into the community for meaningful and well paid work and many went on to study at university at the local campus of Monash University at Churchill. Without the TAFE system, they would have remained locked into a life situation and pattern from which they would not escape and nor would their children. Cutting TAFE cuts options for these adult women who gained greatly from their studies. So too did their communities and the organisations that employed them.

I would urge the government to think creatively about the role that TAFE plays in the lives of many people and in enriching our community. It is not just about trade training, important as that is. It should be accessible and affordable, particularly for those groups in society that have missed out on regular education but who can gain greatly from more flexible and appropriate delivery.

After leaving the LaTrobe Valley and TAFE, I moved to Melbourne where I taught at RMIT University and Deakin University. Great as these institutions are, I believe that

the way in which knowledge was taught at TAFE was far more valuable to the wider community, especially for adults who had had bad experience in secondary education and life generally.

Kath McKay

84 Old Belgrave Road,

Upwey. Vic. 3158

Tel 0397543377

Mob 0409866261

17 April 2013.

See 3 above.

See 3 above re the LaTrobe Valley and Central Gippsland TAFE. Before teaching at Central Gippsland TAFE, I was a Rural Affairs Adviser with the Victorian Government (1987 to 1991). In this role I covered the whole of Gippsland from Bunyip River to the border and reported to the Rural Affairs Committee of Cabinet. In this role I was charged with looking at the needs of groups in the rural areas whose needs were greatest but often overlooked. I worked actively with East Gippsland TAFE and other education providers (Adult Education) to encourage flexible approaches to providing learning to adults, particularly women in isolated areas. This led to the establishment of outreach programs whereby tutors went out from the Bairnsdale base of the TAFE College and provided courses in small areas such as Buchan, Cabbage Tree, Orbost, Raymond Terrace, Tubbut, Goongerah etc. The courses were enormously popular and the women gained great social contact, knowledge, skill and confidence. This in turn often led to them taking up higher education through external studies. However, the most important aspect of the learning was the confidence, maturity and skill that the programs provided to these women who in turn were the backbone of their

communities. The TAFE College also showed great insight by providing mobile childcare to go with the TAFE tutors to the towns. This comprised trained childcare workers who brought relevant equipment to the towns and set up for a few hours a time in a local hall or neighbourhood house, enabling women to confidently leave their small children in their care while they undertook their learning programs.

These outreach programs from TAFE were extremely valuable and copied in other parts of Victoria. No external studies from a university, supported by the internet, can match such face-to-face group programs for enabling real learning across many facets of human needs.

I think the policy to licence private providers as RTOs was one of the most poorly thought out government 'initiatives' in recent decades. Real learning should not be subject to the profit motive. It leads to a 'sausage machine' approach to learning that is detrimental to the community and the student.

Reduced options and increased costs for my grandchildren and their friends!!!!

Increased fees just create blocks to many young people and of course people on fixed incomes.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is a building block for a fair and resourceful society.

Submitted by

Kath McKay of Upwey

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Peter Murphy, of SURRY HILLS make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 59 years old and work as a Foundation manager, in the postcode of 2010.

I know TAFE teachers whose jobs and dignity are being gutted.

TAFE provides quality training with excellent teachers across vocational skills and in the arts. The alternative is outsourced training for profit with at best a thin summary of skills provided to trainees.

TAFE has been vital for the children of several of my friends who have not been able to find a stable life after school and dropping out of post-school education. Especially true on the area of IT.

In Surry Hills I have witnessed in the last five years the emergence and collapse of

several private training colleges in the area of hospitality and English language, with thousands of overseas students in particular out of pocket.

Arts teachers have been sacked, English as a second language teachers have had to get work with Novartis.

TAFE teachers are in despair, and the abolition of arts courses already has really hurt a lot of teachers and students.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the Australian economy needs many many skilled workers to meet the huge demands in health, education, aged care, IT, green energy, manufacturing, construction, mining and transport. TAFE is absolutely vital to a prosperous and sustainable future for Australia.

Submitted by

Peter Murphy of SURRY HILLS

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Virginia Mansel Lees, of Beechworth make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 63 years old and work as a academic, in the postcode of 3689.

TAFE is the second chance organisation that has been very influential in my life and that of so many other people in Australia. I left school at age 15 and undertook courses through my local technical college and then some years later when I had moved to a remote location in Queensland was able to undertake a Diploma of Welfare Studies which then allowed me the opportunity of attending university which I did and which I would not have been able to do so otherwise. I consider this was a turning point in my life that set me up for the future - I was 30 years old when I went university so it did have a very positive impact for me.

There has to be courses that people at any age or stage in their lives can undertake that prepares them for paid employment and also adds value to their lives personally.

These courses have to be well resourced so that people who have been caught up in the cycle of poverty are able to move out of this trap and become much more able to participate fully in society. Charging high fees is not the way to achieve this.

Personally it has had a huge impact and in my extended family there are many members who have had good experiences and have been able to attain employment. They all speak with fondness of their TAFE experiences. My partner is dyslexic and has now completed two university degrees on the basis of many course and specific learning through the TAFE which would not have been possible otherwise.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...that you have choices around education and training that lead to employment that you would otherwise not be able to have.

Having been a TAFE teacher many years ago it is very disappointing to see how the private providers are able to provide sub-standard courses and to be able to access public funding to do so. This means that the good courses are lumped with the poor courses and employers do not know whether having completed Course X or Y means that the person can do the job.

Higher fees and then less students being able to afford them. Cutting of counselling and student services which are a key part of ensuring that students are able to maintain their enrolment and to do well.

Decimated what was a good system with huge uncertainty and now with the ability of TAFE management to sell off campuses the private providers will be able to move in and have what are public facilities.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because this is the basis of our education system for the future. We must ensure that young people have these opportunities to ensure that they are able to participate fully in our society and more specifically in paid employment. It is also important for people at all stages of their lives to be able to access education and training at a cost that is affordable and that is of a high quality.

Submitted by

Virginia Mansel Lees of Beechworth

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Shane Templar, of Ferntree Gully make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am Shane Templar 48 years old and work as a Technical Officer, in the postcode of 3156.

I have 2 teenage children who have high ambitions and TAFE could well be a real option for them especially my son. With the changes the state government have made it is going to be harder for them to attend TAFE due to the higher costs and with courses being axed by TAFE's.

It is people like me along with many of my friends with kids in the same age bracket who are going to suffer through the financial costs of going to TAFE

TAFE is important it gives many kids a second chance to get qualifications if they don't do well at high school

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes it has affected the services provided to students such as bookshop opening hours and Library hours and resources

Yes it has made it harder for students with the raised financial cost of going to TAFE {In some cases course costs have doubled and concessions for a lot of courses have been taken away}

The cuts have affected the whole of the TAFE system across the board in many ways that Governments just don't see like disadvantaging low income families through higher costs is getting into courses, I believe that the cuts to TAFE will have wide social implications with a whole class of people unable to get the skills they want

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need to give our youth the most opportunities to have pathways to get the skills they need and to give adults a chance to be able to get new skills if they wish to change careers or if they lose their job and are forced to get new skills

Submitted by

Shane Templar of Ferntree Gully

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Daniel Cohen, of Campbellfield make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 31 years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 3072.

I work with at risk secondary students many of whom look to TAFE as their only option for further study. For many of the students TAFE is their only pathway into the workforce and the only way for them to overcome the disadvantage they have grown up with.

It is an essential to provide affordable TAFE programs as an option for people who may choose not to attend university.

More importantly TAFE provides an essential way to train people with skills to ensure they can gain meaningful employment which benefits society. Society needs to ensure that skilled trades have qualified people to ensure that essential services such as plumbing, electrical, mechanical trades etc. are provided for the community.

I work with students who are at risk of dropping out of formal education. TAFE has provided many of them with an alternative education which allows them to engage with a formal schooling environment and learn skills which they can use to gain employment. Without having TAFE as an option these students would not be able to receive the education necessary simply because they were either not suited to the structured nature of formal schooling and university or because they could not afford the fees associated with university.

Having a public TAFE campus which is accessible to all students particularly those with disadvantaged backgrounds in the local community is essential. Due to financial issues or family commitments many people are unable to travel long distances to attend other campuses. This is especially true for TAFEs in rural areas. There needs to be a commitment to ensure that all members of our community are able to access TAFE education locally.

I have noticed a significant increase in the availability of private providers spruiking for enrollments, particularly in shopping centres. I also regularly receive discount vouchers designed to encourage increased enrollements through my email. I am always concerned when the focus of enrollement is on increasing the volume of fee paying students rather than providing a quality education with suitably qualified teachers.

My partner was completing the Auslan course at TAFE in Melbourne. This course has now been cut meaning that she can no longer access any training to learn Auslan in an immersed environment. This was the only course of its kind as interstate Auslan courses are for a different dialect. This is an enormous blow to her and to the deaf community as not only has the ability to learn this language been removed from hearing impaired people, it has been removed for all people who wish to communicate with them.

Further to that I have a number of close friends who were TAFE employees but have now had to look elsewhere for employment. Casual positions were simply terminated and many of these were in areas which provided support to indigenous students. I have also seen friends who have been TAFE teachers in a nursing course who have had their class sizes nearly doubled. The fact that the course is of a vocational nature means that the quality of teaching is affected and the education the students receive is simply not at the same quality. The TAFE facilities to fit that number of students is also not suitable due to the vocational nature of the work they do.

The Victorian government's cuts to TAFE have disproportionately affected the public system. Private providers have been able to provide services with no benchmark for the quality of services provided meaning that they have made profits without providing adequate services. The funding cuts have meant that the public TAFE system, which also has to pay for venues and campuses as well as ensuring qualified staff are provided, has not been able to provide the number of courses and keep the same number of campuses for the community.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it ensures that all people within our community are provided with necessary skills to provide services for our community.

TAFE is essential to ensure that the most disadvantaged members of our community are able to access education and become productive members of our society.

Submitted by

Daniel Cohen of Campbellfield

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Catherine Davison, of Thornbury make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 51 years old and work as a TAFE teacher, in the postcode of 3071.

My partner's life was significantly changed by her attendance at what was then East Gippsland TAFE, nine years ago after not being in school or education for over 26 years she enrolled in a Certificate Art course, went on to do her Diploma and then completed her B. Fine Arts at Monash, she has exhibited in regional Gippsland and is recognised by her community as a local artist, her involvement in community arts projects all spring from that initial course at TAFE.

You can read her fellow student's letter to the editor of The Age she summed up what that course meant to her and her colleagues better than I can. It's on the public record.

I teach at TAFE and I know that it provides so much more than just what is in the curriculum (the training package). It is the conversations in the classrooms that

engage students which contribute to them becoming confident, educated well rounded citizens with a sense of self. The skills people need are not only the practical but also the theoretical and TAFE provides both.

The someone I know was 54 before she was ready to return to an educational setting, a lifetime of being on the margins of life through bad decisions early on in life, but going to TAFE and seeing it through, meeting brilliant encouraging teachers who saw her potential not her deficits made all the difference. That particular TAFE no longer has an art program, it was scrapped in Ted Ballieu's cuts and it is unlikely the recent turn around will be enough to resurrect it.

I don't live in Bairnsdale but I have friends and relatives who do and the closure of courses there has been devastating, young people who previously had a possible pathway to learning and a future are now just on the dole with no plans nothing to aim for.

Yes, my students from Somalia tell me about places they can go to to do childcare and aged care courses much cheaper and quicker than at NMIT.

These cuts have ripped the heart out of Swinburne TAFE, Holmesglen, former East Gippsland TAFE they have decimated people's educational choices.

Submitted by

Catherine Davison of Thornbury

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Bronwyn Pratt, of Wantirna South make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 57 years old and work as a Gold & Silversmith, in the postcode of 3152.

I am a Gold & Silversmith and President of the Gold & Silversmiths Guild of Australia. I studied at RMIT, as did my husband and eldest son. Currently my younger son is studying at Wantirna TAFE. My mother also studied at RMIT in the 1930's.

TAFE colleges are the backbone of our workforce. Our trades are educated in these institutions. The TAFE colleges offer extra training, a chance to re educate and up skill yourself as well as offer hobby classes. They keep the young people of the streets!

My current Jewellery Apprentice did a VET course while at High School, as he could not get an apprenticeship at 15. Once he finished year 12 he could still not find an apprenticeship and moved to Melbourne where I have given him the opportunity to

complete his 3rd year of his apprenticeship.

Yes I work in a regional area where TAFE is the only option, mind you my apprentice has to live in Melbourne one week every month as the only training college for Jewellers is at NMIT in Fairfield. That is one reason why I have found it so difficult to get an Apprentice and other regional business also have the same problem. Tasmania and the Northern Territory all send their Jewellery Apprentices long distances to be educated.

There are quite a few private schools in each state trying to teach jewellery skills, not all are successful! They are only interested in "bums" on seats and not about what is being taught!

Yes my apprentices 3rd year class is now being mixed with the 1st year apprentices, this is not a good teaching environment. Students do and will miss out on basic skills and if they have learning difficulties will find it even harder to achieve their goal.

Yes they have impacted on classes, teachers are now being expected to teach across many years in one classroom. Teachers hours have been cut and their contracts slashed! Students are not being assisted with their training costs and do not see the viability of themselves getting an education when they can earn more as a sales assistant than as a jewellery craftsman. Jewellery Apprentices do not receive the Tools for Trade money that other Apprentices receive. Even though our trade is on the

By taking away these services and training programs to regional areas will have a very negative outcome to an already depressed industry.

By cutting the funding to the TAFE Jewellery training colleges, will only speed up the

declining numbers of qualified jewellers in Australia.

Australia is slowly losing the skills that we have been protecting.

Why have Jewellers been on the National Skills Shortage list when we have such a low TAFE training rate.

Submitted by

Bronwyn Pratt of Wantirna South

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Robert Moore, of Bathurst make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 67 years old and work as a part-time casual teacher, in the postcode of 2795.

I completed the automotive engineering trade course, have also completed advanced cert in applied industrial electronics, cert 3 and cert 4 in information technology, several automotive post-trade certificates in air-conditioning, diesel, automotive electronics. TAFE has played a major role in my life and in the lives of many other members of our community.

In spite of major cuts to funding, TAFE is still the most professional and effective organisation to provide skills and knowledge that are useable in the workplace.

When it became necessary to study information technology, first I had enrolled in an external studies course at CSU in Wagga Wagga. It became apparent that the CSU

course was much less appropriate than the TAFE course. The TAFE course contained a thorough grounding in all of the practical aspects of the subject area which I needed. This was also the case with around 10 others who has similar needs.

TAFE has already suffered ongoing funding cuts over many years yet so far, it has still provided the most effective training which current funding allows.

Yes, there has been an increase in poorly regulated training organisations. I have personally seen numerous examples in the automotive and in the information technology fields.

It is impossible to fail to notice the cuts in courses, support services, campus closures and job losses. There has been a history (by both major political parties) to force the offer of unwanted or inappropriate courses or subjects in small campuses. This causes enrolments to drop and then the media is told that courses are being withdrawn due to insufficient enrolments.

The strategy described in '7' above has already been successful in shutting down automotive and fashion sections in Forbes, Parkes and Cowra. No doubt these tactics will continue to be employed.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because:

"The greatest thing under the sun is education. Educate a person and you have made a contribution to society for generations to come" Professor Jigoro Kano

"Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world" Nelson Mandela

...and TAFE is the most effective organisation to impart practical skills, knowledge and appropriate work attitudes for use in the vocational area.

Submitted by

Robert Moore of Bathurst

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Alex Nissen, of east St Kilda make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 51 years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 3183.

TAFE teacher and coordinator for 15 years
in the diploma of community services

Studied atTAFE doing an alternative to year 12 in 1979. I was a students at risk and the only reason I made it through was because of the fantastic support and honesty of both my year 11 teacher who referred me to TAFE or prahran college

In our modern world the workforce needs constant training. More than ever, people need to retrain and learn new skills to cope with the constant changes in the work place. Most of the course in TAFE are connected to industries, and are taught connecting theory to practice, which is why so many courses such as community

services have placements in industry ..

For 15 years I have watched students struggling with poverty get an education, then a job and leave the poverty trap. I have seen hundreds of students gain qualification get jobs that then led them to better lives for their families .. Education is the key to escape poverty. Its your responsibility to help create a civil society by providing accessible and affordable education.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Yes I have had students in the past with diploma qualifications whose english was not up to standard ..

These students struggled to pass basic english assessment in the community sector ..

Course are more expensive.. for example the diploma of community services has gone up from \$2500 to \$3500 a year .. Students pay more but face to face class time has decreased by approx 30% to cope with the expenses .. There is less access to student services .. Quality of courses has decreased ,, There is an enormous amount of administration connected to teaching .. Teachers are not as accessible to students

Class sizes increased .. Classes that use to be taught for 50 hours are now taught for 30 hours in face to face delivery.. Cost prevent a percentage of students studying .. Administration has increased .. Less support for students with disabilities ...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because education is the key to escape poverty ,, Its the governments responsibility to support and create a civil society that gives everyone a chance at training and to be employed

.. This can only be done if TAFE is well funded but that the courses are also not expensive ...

Submitted by

Alex Nissen of east St Kilda

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Sarah Thame, of Henley Beach make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 25 years old and work as a student, in the postcode of 5022.

Having not completed secondary education, TAFE offered and continues to offer a pathway into the specific occupational field I will be entering in the near future.

TAFE offers its student a hands on approach which I believe helps students gain a more thorough understanding of the specific type of skills required for the occupations they are wishing to undertake. Through this approach, students gain confidence in learning and developing their skills, as opposed to simply being told or shown what is required to succeed. There is flexibility, guidance, encouragement, and support from both the lectures and students, which in my opinion is not offered or available within Australian universities.

I did not complete secondary education as my learning requirements were not being met. In doing this, I had and continue to study at TAFE at the pace most suitable to my needs. Having taken several breaks between studying for personal reasons, it is TAFE I find myself constantly returning to. With the support and understanding of the staff and students, the development of both my personal conduct and industry knowledge and skills has and continues to increase. It is studying at TAFE I find myself most comfortable and confident in my abilities and future ambitions.

An increase in student fees and staff cutbacks have occurred due to previous and current budget cuts.

I understand the concept and need for implementations regarding budgets. In saying that, significant fee increases and class and staff reductions will not only disadvantage current staff and students, but future individuals who without the options of an accessible education, will be of disadvantage through fewer study options. This not only affects the future generation of potential students, but also the entire body of industries throughout Australia.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well funded because the range of current and potential students require and are entitled to the option of an education that allows the freedom and support TAFE currently offers. In order to work toward and achieve the future Australia currently strives for, it is through TAFE where the potential can be found and attained.

Submitted by

Sarah Thame of Henley Beach

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Phillip Smith, of Warragul make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am Phillip Smith 47 years old and work as a TAFE, in the postcode of 3820.

As a TAFE Teacher, I see every day, how TAFE has a positive impact on the lives people young and old. Whether its an apprentice training in their chosen field or someone wishing for a change of career or a secondry student finishing off VCE. For many of these people in my community, having TAFE there to provide fantastic support from well qualified teachers and support staff is critical. For so many, TAFE has been the difference between no qualifcations and low selfesteem, or a pathway to something better.

.

For many years TAFE has worked very closly with industry to provide a well trained work force. With an emphasis historically on training, funding change for TAFEs over

recent years has impacted their focus. This undermines the strength of TAFE to provide quality and purely educational outcomes.

I work in a trade area of TAFE. In the ten years I have been there I have been lucky enough to see some of my students start as a young wide eyed apprentice. Then to be supported through their training (many needing the extra support classroom aids provide not to mention LLN support) only to go on to start a business employ people send them to be trained at TAFE, Its a great cycle to be part of.

I live and work in a regional area in Victoria, TAFE is not only seen as, but IS a critical part of my community. Many of the courses that have been cut due to less funding, provided extremely important pathways to other courses and employment. Local TAFEs provide a local focus for communities and industry. We now have disengaged youth with nothing to do this year, last year they were at TAFE.

Poorly regulated private RTOs have managed to rot the system taking public money and delivering sub standard training. I have had first hand experience of this. I have recently finished an apprentice who came to my TAFE when he changed employer. This student had done some training at a private RTO. His employer going by the apprentices report and results from the private RTO was of the understanding that his new apprentice was nearly finished Trade training. In doing my pre training review with the employer and apprentice, It turned out that much of the work "signed off" had in fact not been done at all .Yet the private RTO had claimed payment for it.This meant the employer had an under trained 3rd year apprentice (the employer very nearly stoped employment right then !). We the TAFE agreed to retrain this guy for more than half the course at no cost just to give him a fair go. These sort of things should not happen with public money.

Budget cuts to TAFE have seen many courses closed leaving students with less choice and limited pathways. At my TAFE many staff, teachers and support staff have been made redundant. Great facilities are left empty. My students fees have gone up from around \$800 to \$1200. Thats a lot for a first year apprentice.

These significant cuts have forced TAFE to significantly reduce many services to students. Less course support is impacting on many students ability to complete their study and contrasts with what TAFE is there for ,that is to provide quality training to our community.

Funding needs to be restored so that TAFE remains a strong part of the education system of Australia. It really is too good to lose.

Submitted by

Phillip Smith of Warragul

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, lisa clingan, of geelong make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 51 years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 3220.

My first experience of the TAFE was as an isolated single mother and I did a short course

provides industry specific skills - trainers with industry experience prepare students for work - time management skills, OHS, quality assurance requirements that can't be learnt from a book

Violetta was born in Europe and came to Australia in her early 20's and had 1 daughter in Australia. After 15 years as a full time mother she had poor English and no relevant work experience. Preparing for her daughter leaving home she did an introductory English class and then enrolled in a TAFE Diploma of Laboratory Technology course

and with support services available gained confidence and started work full time in the local pathology laboratory. After several years she was promoted and started off campus university and attributes her change in life with the new start at TAFE

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

In Geelong there is the Government TAFE and a private provider for many health related courses. Students pay more for private tuition, for a shorter period of time, with less hands on resources. When they apply for jobs they do not get an interview as employers have found they are not as employment ready as the TAFE trained applicants. The students are confused and some repeat their training at the TAFE.

Cuts have put pressure on support services and professional development not available at private providers. I have been a trainer in a TAFE course and in one class there were 7 out of 8 students with mental illness. They were highly intelligent people but isolated from the workforce. What happens to these students who need to have positive work experiences to break the cycle if support services are not available on site?

teachers are stressed, students are anxious, choices are not available, one - one individual attention is not available for students who lack confidence or are not self motivated

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because the TAFE is the last stop for alot of students who would otherwise be on unemployment benefits and not contributing to society, to see a student who has found their passion and found their life's calling is worth millions!

Submitted by

lisa clingan of geelong

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Steven Smith, of Kempsey make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 45 years old and work as a TAFE teacher, in the postcode of 2440.

I left school at 16 years old and didn't have job and couldn't find a job. The year before I went to tafe for 1 week for some experience in some of the trades available there. I found out that they had what was called a pre apprenticeship course in Wall and Floor Tiling which was full time for 6 months so I enrolled in that. In that time my teacher found me a job and the rest is history. I now am a TAFE teacher in that industry and have my chance to put something back. TAFE was a blessing to me and many other students who were in the same position as me.

TAFE gives students a chance to train at there own level and pace without any pressure from a boss, and make mistakes without any cost to them or a client.

Many of my own students have had the same chance I had when I left school. if it wasn't for TAFE many people wouldn't have a job and would rely on handouts!

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...a chance for rural areas to expand and prosper and gives people incentive to get a qualification without travel and extra costs.

The standards are dropping with on site assessing and tick and flick private RTO's in order to get funding.

I myself have had 2 hours a week taken from me and it seems harder than ever to provide the resources we need.

If you take money away from education the next generation will suffer and that is what's happening all over, look at Victoria!

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it gives people like me who found the pressure of not knowing what career I wanted at such an early age to hard. If it wasn't for TAFE I wouldn't have any skills or qualifications to do well in life. TAFE has played an essential roll in the development of the skills needed to secure a good job especially in low socio economic groups and should continue.

Submitted by

Steven Smith of Kempsey

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Kevin Hitchens, of Lara make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 49 years old and work as a Goldsmith and platinum smith, in the postcode of 3000.

I can write this letter because of a TAFE teacher.

In 1985 I represented Australia at the 28th International Vocational Training Competition held in Osaka Japan.

Wearing my Australian uniform I won a bronze medal for Australia in the trade category of jewellery all because of a TAFE teacher.

I have trained 2 apprentices and skills enhanced 6 others all who own their own business, have raised families and are substantial contributors to Australia.

Do you really want to be known as the Government that unpicked and destroyed training in Australia ?

Submitted by

Kevin Hitchens of Lara

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Vivienne Tuckerman, of Medlow Bath make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 57 years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2780.

I have been to TAFE and done certificate courses in IT. They really helped me to get a good job in my teaching career. I also know others who have done creative courses at TAFE and it has helped them to get work and fulfillment in their lives. TAFE is a wonderful, free education service and it will be a sad day indeed if these awful cuts are allowed to go through.

TAFE is particularly good for those who have, for whatever reason, slipped through the cracks at school and have little self esteem, and few skills. It is good for people who want to return to the workplace and it is a great place to upgrade your existing skills or explore new ones.

I had very few IT skills, being an older teacher, and doing a Cert IV in IT really opened up a lot of opportunities for me.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means there are few options for education, or even for integration into the mainstream for many people.

I was amazed that the retraining course in Computing at Sydney University for DEC teachers was pretty poor in comparison to the course I did at TAFE. The standards were way lower!

There have been many job losses for casual and part time teachers who have given their life to teaching at TAFE. It is a terrible thing to ruin so many lives. The really insulting thing is they aren't even given the dignity of being included in the statistics for job losses.

Many art courses have been totally cut in areas where there is little else available. The disadvantaged will no longer be able to afford courses, and many courses will disappear altogether, if they have not already done so.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we have had one of the best free education systems in the world, for those who cannot afford to get an education anywhere else. Please do not let our TAFE system go. Please do not cut art courses!

Submitted by

Viviene Tuckerman of Medlow Bath

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Christine Doyle, of concord west make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 62 years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2238.

I have worked for 40 years with students from every background, both skilled immigrants and refugees, men and women, adult and children, who wish to learn enough English to function in their jobs, deal with schools, workplaces and the society in general. English courses at TAFE are the basic and most essential gateway to participation in Australian society. They also help students that the schools fail and adults who missed out on study.

Successive Australian governments have sought immigrants to work here. Many are skilled but their skills are not recognised in the workplace or are only partly recognised. Others are unskilled or wish to change jobs to one they are interested in (as opposed to were "forced" to do). All of these students rely on the professional help of TAFE

staff. TAFE provides an important pathway to participation in the economy, up-skilling of the workforce and a vital institution to give people hope. Those unable to access such help quickly become disillusioned with Australian society and may look for anti-social ways to express this.

Every single student I have taught at TAFE is there seeking a second chance. Many have been through war and trauma, loss and dislocation. Others have had no chance to study because they are women or belong to minorities excluded from education. TAFE is all about a second chance.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

Many many students have said to me personally that they "learnt nothing" till they came to TAFE, that TAFE is better organised, has an organised curriculum and better trained teachers. They have found too many private college teachers to be poorly skilled and unable to deliver a coherent lesson.

In my TAFE, budgets cuts have meant old and broken equipment is not replaced, new resources are not bought (important to keep up-skilling teachers), courses are cut, less face to face hours are provided to meet student needs and a devastating cut in support services for the most disadvantaged students.

Slashing of support services for most disadvantaged students (physical and mental disabilities, migrant services), contraction of face to face hours, poorer resourcing.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because multiculturalism depends both access and equity for migrants and refugees. As soon as the gateways to participation in the society such as TAFE are closed, we will see

the consequences on the streets of our towns and cities. The phenomenon of terrorism begins with being excluded, with experiencing discrimination and hopelessness. Australia is now heading down this path because the political decision makers are not sufficiently in touch with the lives of people they are supposed to serve.

Submitted by

Christine Doyle of concord west

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Maria Ivanov, of Oak Flats make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 47 years old and work as a massage therapist, in the postcode of 2529.

I studied at tafe. I would not have my job if it wasnt for tafe. As an older student and recently separated at the time. Tafe was a life saver for me to get back into the work force.

I think Tafe is very important part of developmental skills and work in the future. Talking from experience, where would I be today if I did not have the skills of a massage therapist? I am so grateful that I could study at Tafe and achieve a skill to go into the work force at the age of 45.

It not only has it given me a second chance to work in the community but many other people I know who were in similar situations as my self. My daughter has also studied

at tafe and is now working in the community.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means... alot to me I would like to futher my studies there is so much to learn and improve in my line of work. I am concerned about courses and services cut not only for my self but also for my children. My youngest daughter is looking to study at our local Tafe. I would hate to think where would she go if Tafe was not an option.

Yes, I have also studied at private colleges and they are not up to the standard of Tafe.

I have a few friends that work at Tafe and I am so concerned for their jobs and also for future students and cuts to courses. I have heard that their has not been as much advertising in attracting new students to courses.

I think their has been reduced classes.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€ We need Tafe for the future of our childrens education. Where will our children study if they can not get into University. I am concerned for my daughters future. She has a learning disability. Tafe is a good option for her. We need Tafes in our community.

Submitted by

Maria Ivanov of Oak Flats

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Emma West, of Sunbury make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 36 years old and work as a stay-at-home mother, in the postcode of 3429.

My husband was working as a courier when I met him 10 years ago. After having breakfast with a friend who had stand alone renewable energy systems for power (solar and wind) installed in his house, my husband decided to go back to TAFE and study Renewable Energy. He completed Diplomas of Electrotechnology (Renewable Energy) and Electronics at Central TAFE in Western Australia. His studies brought him into contact with people involved in the renewable energy industry, and he went straight into a job with a solar PV company the week after he graduated from TAFE. His TAFE qualifications are directly responsible for this amazing employment opportunity in the emerging industry of renewable energy. He has now been working in this industry, and has advanced in his role with experience, since 2008. The company he was originally employed in was bought by a global PV company, and with them he

worked on large commercial PV systems.

My husband has begun some University studies in the same field, and reports that the university course is less up to date and less industry-aware than the TAFE course he originally studied. We are now living in Victoria, and my husband is still working in a solar PV company, designing and installing large PV systems.

TAFE is an irreplaceable form of tertiary education. It provides hand-on and specialised knowledge that cannot be gained at University. As an adjunct to apprenticeships and as a place that offers special technical skills, there is no substitute for TAFE, and to take it away is, to my mind, unthinkable. Because it is designed to prepare people for existing industries, it is taught by people who are experienced and knowledgeable in their field, with hands on knowledge not just 'head' knowledge. There is no doubt that TAFE enables people to 'better' themselves, to gain greater prosperity and to contribute useful skills in society through skilled work. It would be an essential stepping stone for people starting from a position of social disadvantage who want to participate meaningfully in society through work.

Our life is completely different to what it was previously, thanks to my husbands TAFE qualifications and the opportunities gained through them. I have another friend who went back to TAFE to study hospitality who has an excellent job running a catering kitchen now.

I have noticed many private colleges offering courses in different types of work. These are not at all attractive to me, because I can't imagine that employers would value them above a TAFE qualification. TAFE has a good reputation and provides a good standard of education.

I have heard through friends who have studied at TAFE of courses being combined or

merged - and of qualifications being scrapped, and people being left without a course to complete.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because without TAFE, the quality of every trade and many services such as childcare will be uninsurable - the government will no longer have any way of ensuring that people working in trade are well qualified and equipped to provide the best quality of service. In some industries - including renewable energy - this is a matter of public safety. You may leave Australians at the mercy of cheap imported labour, degrading the value of everyone's work and time, and you will leave many people without the means to provide themselves with meaningful employment. If the government wishes to avoid having to provide more unemployment benefits, then TAFE must be amply funded and equipped.

Submitted by

Emma West of Sunbury

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Vivien Ray, of Northcote make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am the mother of a daughter aged 23 years old and work as a social worker, in the postcode of 3070.

My daughter enrolled at Boxhill TAFE a few years ago and studied Auslan. She received her certificate for Auslan 1 and 2. This has played an extremely important role in her career. She was able to find part time employment as a teacher's aide in a school for deaf children. Not only had studied Auslan but she had also studied and received her certificate 3 in Children's Services from Boxhill TAFE. together with these TAFE qualifications, my daughter found meaningful and specialised employment.

TAFE courses build self esteem and provide learning and qualifications to many men and women of all ages, cultures and abilities. I used to teach in TAFE in a women's access program. I taught English, communication and confidence building to women

who had been out of the workforce for a long time. Just watching those women study, make friendships and gain in confidence was amazing. Studying in TAFE changes lives and pathways.

these women were given a second chance. They were no longer isolated in their homes or felt worthless. with their TAFE certificate they held their heads up high and went on to gainful employment and positive contributors in society.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I have definitely noticed an increase in poorly regulated private colleges with lower standards than TAFE. Private colleges and Training Organisations are dependent on making a profit and because it is poorly regulated, their students lose out.

My daughters friends cannot afford to pay full fees and some of her friends who wanted to enroll in certain courses have been told those courses have been axed. My daughter wanted to do the diploma in Auslan but it no longer exists. How can she improve her qualifications in Auslan if the course has been withdrawn?

The TAFE system needs more money, not less. I urge the State Government to look after its vulnerable residents and make them the best qualified in the country, not the worst. Victoria has the potential to educate all its people, to save money on mental health and hospitals due to isolation and depression. All it needs to do is fund TAFE and let TAFE once again educate the people of Victoria, helping them to gain qualifications and lead fulfilling and financially rewarding lives.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded. the women I taught became friends with each other, learned english and were happier and healthier. My

daughter gained employment in the deaf community but wants to continue studying in TAFE to upgrade her certificates to a diploma. Maybe then she might study for a degree. By funding TAFE back to its original level or putting more in, you will save money in the area of health and give the chance of employment to many who would otherwise be unemployed and unskilled.

Submitted by

Vivien Ray of Northcote

Thursday 18th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, David Tomkins, of Northcote make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 65 years old and work as a retired medical scientist, in the postcode of 3070.

My parents couldn't afford to send me to university, so I accepted a radio & TV mechanics apprenticeship and studied at TAFE for 7 years.

I believe TAFE makes a major contribution to Australia's strong economic growth. Without TAFE we would be very dependant on other countries to train our technicians mechanics and skilled artisans.

At age 35 I enrolled again at TAFE and spent 5 years part-time studying clinical neurophysiology. This prepared me for my second career which carried me through to retirement.

If it wasn't for TAFE colleges, I would not have had such a useful and fulfilling working life.

I have noticed that poorly regulated private colleges are training people to work in health and aged care who do not provide the skills required.

I hear about shortages of skilled technical and assistant staff in many healthcare facilities I have contact with.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because Victoria's economic future is dependant on it.

Submitted by

David Tomkins of Northcote

Friday 19th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Andrew Batchelor, of Yamba make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 61 years old and work as a consultant, in the postcode of 2464.

I've seen TAFE NSW provide learning and employment opportunities for many poor persons and disadvantaged learners and members of rural communities. In rural NSW, there's often only TAFE providing high quality vocational programs while private providers 'cherry-pick' little high return short courses.

Australia needs a strong and well resourced TAFE as the basis for a vocational education system that supports skills development in trades, smart and creative industries, personal and social services and para professional careers. While it once upon a time did, business cannot and will not provide that basis; nor will 'private providers'.

I have seen TAFE provide Aboriginal people and people with disabilities many learning opportunities and vocational outcomes that have enabled new life's choices, community development, and jobs and enterprise development that were simply unavailable anywhere else.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means learning, earning and undertaking learning programs that meet our rural and educational needs. Rural TAFE is responsive to local industry needs; educationally supportive; and often the only choice for foundational and pre-vocational learning.

Yes, I've seen private colleges run easy, little short courses.

My mate, who's a builder, did a short 'certificate 4' course then immediately started teaching and passing workers in OH&S (over 4 courses), he himself with little OH&S, business or planning experience. He now regrets the whole 'joke' and wings about the poor support and administration from his experience.

Yes. I live in the artistic and creative belt of the Northern Rivers of NSW and the pall from closures of art and music is palpable, yet understandable if choices need be made based on self-serving industry influence. Job losses will result: creative industries thrive in this area and have, to date, been provided for with high quality TAFE staff and facilities.

Funding formulas don't seem to accommodate the our rural communities diverse needs for hairdressers, florists, child cares, electricians and 'second chance' educational opportunities. Budget savings are a false economy; unemployment, social dislocation and crime result and when TAFE leaves an area, private colleges pick up the 'crumbs' only if it's easy and there's a buck in it.

I understand only 30% kids go to university. We need a strong and properly resourced TAFE to provide dignity, learning and (thus) employment opportunities to the 70 % of our kids who need and deserve self-determination from learning and earning income.

Australia needs a smart, skilled and innovative workforce. Only TAFE can provide the quality and breadth of vocational learning programs that support both business and industries' needs as well as the untapped worth and creativity of our existing workers, kids, migrants, unemployed, and underemployed Aborigines, people with disabilities and persons needing retraining in order to return to the workforce.

Submitted by

Andrew Batchelor of Yamba

Friday 19th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Simon Ross, of Newmarket make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 36 years old and work as a Admin Officer, in the postcode of 4101.

I have been currently working at a TAFE/Stat Authority for the last 12 years and recently I have started studying at TAFE in Diploma of Project Management. TAFE has been a big part in my life as prior to working for TAFE i was unemployed for 6 years and it was TAFE that gave me a start back in the workforce through a traineeship.

TAFE allows people from all backgrounds regardless of economic status to be able to afford education to change their lives, if it is not for TAFE many people will suffer to survive as jobs are scarce and education is expensive otherwise.

I was given an oppportunity via education and work through a TAFE via a traineeship, if this was not offered to me who knows where i would have ended up.

I do not live in a regional area, however i feel it is important that regional areas have access to quality education which tafe provides. Education is one of the keys to better life.

Yes, Shafton college is one i can think of that provided a nursing qualification with little practical component and the institute was forced to pass students who would not have passed in other TAFE institutes just so they could make a profit.

Yes, alot of staff have been retrenched due to cutbacks and this may get worse, if there are not the staff to deliver the programs then TAFE will not survive.

significantly as the more reduced staff there are, the higher the fees will be which will turn alot of people away from affordable quality education.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because all australians deserve a right to affordable education. I have seen many students graduate from a program where they are the only person in their family to graduate and to see their smiling faces when they walk across the stage is all the gratitude i need to know that this country needs tafe.

Submitted by

Simon Ross of Newmarket

Friday 19th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, shirley panzera, of melton make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 48 years old and work as a service cashier, in the postcode of 3337.

I am in tafe this year studying a double diploma. I am a personal trainer fitness and group instructor, but with arthritis settling in i want want to change my career and still make a difference to peoples lives.

Tafe is great, it was once affordable. It is a great place to learn and they have a great reputation. The courses are accredited and they make learning pleasurable.

I am currently studying a double diploma in the same time it would have taken me for one. The staff at footscray nicholson are absolutely fantastic. I thoroughly enjoy studying there.

Yes, it is the only place i could get accredited study.

My daughters studied at private venues for child care. It was a few hours a week. They had to do most of the work them selves at home. They found it extremely difficult not having the opportunity to seek assistance when they needed it.

The uni has already lost staff and we are going to lose the area office which means no more help for us. We have to chase our own enquiries and we wouldnt know where to go for answers.

They are making it extremely difficult for people to further their skills through study. Isnt it hard enough for the australain community to pay for simple commodities? And they want the dole que to shrink...well help the average australain out and stop thinking of your own pay packet and cosy retirement pensions. You cant have everything.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦ because there are too many people unemployed who actually want a job. For our children and any one that wants to study has to be affordable and maintain the great teachers that actually teach and support the students. They too need a job and sadly many have been working at the unis for years. Experienced teachers and are members public who actually do a job well done. Pull your finger out... Do the right thing...look after the australain public.

Submitted by

shirley panzera of melton

Friday 19th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Cate Gleeson, of Lugarno make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 61 years old and work as a Broadband for Seniors volunteer, and a HPSOP trainer, in the postcode of 2210.

I went to TAFE at night while working as a Teacher Librarian. I completed a Diploma of PC User and Network Support. I did this because I wanted to enhance my practical skills - as the Teacher Librarian I was in a leadership role with introducing technology to my school. I worked with the Regional Technology Advisor, as the position was then termed, to develop and extend the school's network & to train staff and students in its use. TAFE offered me the opportunity to learn about computers and networks at a convenient time - I could not take time off work to do it, it was affordable, and the range of subjects enhanced my understanding. I wanted training to help me manage, fix, install, computers and the network, practical skills. The teachers were enthusiastic and knowledgeable and supportive, interested in what I was trying to do. The resources

were not wonderful - but we made do. It was a fabulous learning experience for me, hard work well worth it. Many of my colleagues and students directly benefitted from my study at TAFE.

TAFE gives students a more practical education to that of Universities. By its links to industry and encouragement for teachers to either have worked in the areas they are teaching in, or be still active in work in those fields, it remains relevant and is aware of the movements within industry. Given appropriate funding it can respond with excellence.

I myself took off on a second career - tho an unpaid one! I became both Teacher Librarian AND Network Coordinator - and general computer dogs body - because of my TAFE course! I might have been terribly busy and stressed but I really enjoyed it and was able to make a difference to the ways in which students at my school were taught, and how I myself taught them. A positive difference.

I have noticed over time the slashing of many courses, and know some teachers who no longer have jobs! The recent termination of many Visual Arts courses is very sad. My sister-in-law was a student of one of these courses and hope to turn her new skills into a small business venture, but now the course is over and her skills are not well developed. Many other people are no doubt in the same situation.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need to be a clever country - is that not what we are constantly being told? we must invest more in education, not less. TAFE caters to students who may not be academically gifted but have gifts in many other areas - areas of great importance to the Australian

economy and to Australian society. Many women who are coming back into the workforce have used TAFE as a way of refreshing skills, or getting new ones - at an affordable cost. We hear so frequently about the lagging of our investment in public education in Australia - we must stop this and invest in our children and grandchildren and in the future of this wonderful country.

Submitted by

Cate Gleeson of Lugarno

Friday 19th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Glen Sebasio, of Wanniassa make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 45 years old and work as a Business Analyst, in the postcode of 2601.

Born in Brisbane. Lived in rural Aboriginal Community. Worked with troubled youth into my 30's. Saw suicide first hand. Saw a clear correlation with funds not making it to grass roots community. Money and services was getting to the people who needed it. This angered me with leaders not making the right decisions with money provided. Did a series of Business TAFE courses and went on to gain a degree in Accounting. TAFE allowed me to redirect my focus to a vocation I felt was necessary for Indigenous uplift.

It can be a stepping stone to a greater input into the community. I was able to partake in a Governance course at TAFE this has been a guiding factor to the Indigenous community to instill best practice and accountability at a board level.

Began working with youth - troubled youth in juvenile prison orders and bail conditions and changed my vocation to Accounting and Information Systems to be more effective in the community and to be a guiding light in making change by a concentrated effort. I am more effective in the community as both a leader and a member of society.

I was born in Brisbane but began TAFE while on CDEP programme in rural Aboriginal Community. TAFE prepared me for University. While my initial focus was just to get some sort of qualification I was then able to be counselled into applying to attend University on a paid Cadetship. TAFE made a fully paid Cadetship possible. I was able to complete University without any debt.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE is foundational to a better society and an improvement to democracy as a whole. Good leaders can't lead if the foundations of society is lacking basic skills.

Submitted by

Glen Sebasio of Wanniasa

Saturday 20th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Marlene Turner, of Marrickville make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 58 years old and work as a public servant, in the postcode of 2011.

For my generation, TAFE was the normal transition from school to work. We be were well equipped for our working lives by our training at TAFE. I've had many career changes since I started TAFE in 1971 and have had the privilege of studying many different courses - some vocational and others that were hobbies that eventually became careers.

TAFE provides the practical groundwork and forms the basis of a good foundation for university.

I had an early departure from school due to the early death of both my parents. It provided an affordable means to gain training for my chosen career when I left school

and also again at the age of 44 when I was made redundant, my love of art which I had pursued at TAFE, became the basis for my training as a teacher at University.

Friends who have attended privately run colleges have told me of instances where their college has become financially unstable and they have not been able to finish their studies.

Yes, courses are becoming too expensive - the majority of young students would find the training they need is out of their reach. I can see Australia becoming the "dumb" country as we can't rely on luck to take us through to the next century.

An increase in casual teachers at TAFE , lower pay and a loss of conditions for educators. Fees are becoming too expensive and courses are not available at every college.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because TAFE is the backbone of the Australian workforce and provides practical training and sound principles to any course. The teachers care about their students and have the training and vocational background to teach to Australian standards. Financial concerns should not be the only factor that governs the future of TAFE. Private colleges are ultimately concerned with economics only not the students themselves.

Submitted by

Marlene Turner of Marrickville

Saturday 20th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Anne McAsh, of Moruya make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 63 years old and work as a Coordinator of Specialist homelessness Service, in the postcode of 2537.

I attended TAFE from age 30 yrs to complete Bookkeeping and Accounts Certificate & Typing. Previously I worked in Commonwealth Employment Service until moving to this area for husbands work.

TAFE used to be well resourced with excellent trained teachers, then was introduced private training providers - all with their own standards. The system has become confusing. TAFE had a structure and a standard and a strong career path to higher education. TAFE had all trades and skills in all areas and could be mobilised so that regional and country areas were not disadvantaged.

My daughter was ill for her high school years after being School Captain at Primary School with excellent maths where she attended extensions into high school maths and english while in Year 6. By Year 12 at high school hse did not get a good uni level entry so attended TAFE for Environmental Science in Canberra and after 2 years could then transition to University. She still wasn't well but could manage study, she would not have been able to support herself by working as well and this cost we carried.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means that you have very good resources available to you to extend your education. Not only the resources but a quality standard of teaching.

Yes - people do courses but they really have no relevance or recognised standard,- it can mean very little to employers.

The local TAFE here has advised cuts to subjects and here we also have a much needed indigenous stream.

We will also lose jobs in this area, where employment figures are high.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because Australia needs educated people of a quality and standards thata are recognised.

Submitted by

Anne McAsh of Moruya

Saturday 20th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Louise Allen, of Saumarez Ponds make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 57 years old and work as a casual high school teacher, in the postcode of 2350.

I have done courses at TAFE and have assisted high school students accessing TAFE, VET and TVET courses as a Learning Support Teacher.

I think it serves as an excellent provider of courses and training for skills needed in the workforce. In many ways TAFE courses provide for the interests of students whilst still at school. Students are introduced to the opportunities that TAFE offers; it appeals to students as a bridge between school and post -school experiences; it can often help students who struggle with the restrictions of school environments.

I think TAFE offers students the chance to gain qualifications without having to enrol in University and also as an adjunct to apprenticeships.

We have both TAFE and University in the town where I live, but it concerns me that a lot of money is set up building great new facilities at TAFE and then courses are not funded and facilities are then under-utilised. eg some courses in fine arts for example have been cut when rural communities benefit when many interest courses are offered. I think the value of education should not be seen as only reflected in potential employment statistics. eg the baby boomers are going to have a lot of time on their hands during retirement years and tafes should be tapping into that market.

No not where I live, although I am aware (through the media) that some providers of education courses in metropolitan cities are not providing students with the experience they hoped for.

I believe that the courses in Fine Arts were cut locally. I also know experienced local TAFE teachers who have had to re -do Cert IV. I think that professional development is very helpful but I think that individual modules to up- date would have been preferable to having to re-train in a previously attained qualification.

I think fees have to be kept accessible to keep students accessing TAFE courses. I think that many people who would access TAFE are in a position where they may need assistance juggling childcare and living costs to further their education.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because in my experience as a learning support teacher, students see the value in gaining a TAFE qualification. It is also my experience that the most successful results are where

students attend TAFE courses that are taught personally by a teacher. I have spent far too many hours assisting senior high school students who fall behind doing Distance TAFE courses. This uses both TAFE and DEC time and resources and it would be far better to employ more face- to -face teaching hours of high school age students in TAFE courses.

Submitted by

Louise Allen of Saumarez Ponds

Saturday 20th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Rodney Hayes, of Somerset make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 52 years old and work as a Linesman, in the postcode of 7322.

When I left high school way back in 1976 I got an apprenticeship as a motor mechanic I attended Burnie Technical College once a week for 3 years plus our training was tutored by ex tradesman. The college was well equipped not like now all the engines have gone I dont know where the kids go for training nowadays my mates become plumbers, carpenters, electricians etc all trained at Burnie Tech. college now its mostly gone well done I say idiots!

Its not hard to work out we need highly skilled tradesman not govt beauracrats we now talk about importing poor quality workers from overseas

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€¦!

Submitted by

Rodney Hayes of Somerset

Saturday 20th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Bevis Hoy, of Walcha make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 69 years old and work as a retired, in the postcode of 2354.

Former teacher but did courses at TAFE as well.

Tafe offers courses which some tertiary institutions do not and many students feel more comfortable studying at TAFE

TAFE is giving my son the opportunity to study accounting at the moment. He did a degree at CSU Bathurst, couldn't get a job in his field of study. He studied Radiology Therapy at Sydney Uni, and after a year was put out of the course because his science background was not strong enough, but they took his money for a year. He is now happy at TAFE.

At my son's TAFE courses have already been cut and staff laid off.

I see advertising all the time in Newspapers and magazines.

see above

I have observed lack of standards, lectures having to be held at odd times, general lack of funding all over and funds being taken from TAFE budgets to go to other government departments.

Hopefully I have made my feelings clear.

Submitted by

Bevis Hoy of Walcha

Sunday 21st of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Emily De Rango, of Preston make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am currently undertaking a PhD in English at the University of Melbourne. Though I always aspired to an academic career, long-term health problems kept me from pursuing this for many years. Prior to going to university as a mature-age student, I undertook a Certificate IV in Liberal Arts at NMIT. This TAFE course gave me the skills, knowledge and confidence to move on to a university undergraduate degree, which I completed with marks high enough to secure an APA scholarship for my postgraduate studies.

TAFE was a vital part of my educational journey, and without the access to a reasonably-priced, well-staffed and supportive course, I may never have gotten to where I am today.

I urge you all to recognise the great value that TAFE has for our society, both for

students like me who go on to pursue traditional academic studies, and for vocationally-oriented students who, through TAFE, learn the kinds of skills that are sorely needed in our workforce.

TAFE helps some of the most disadvantaged members of our communities to access education and vocational training, improving their lives and strengthening their ability to make a meaningful contribution. Defunding TAFE courses and raising student fees means that the people who really need TAFE may never get the opportunity to achieve their potential. Both for the sake of the students and for the communities they will go on to improve, please reconsider these cuts and invest more fully in our future.

Submitted by

Emily De Rango of Preston

Sunday 21st of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Rodney Rossington, of Avondale make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 49 years old and work as a Area Team Leader in Oil and Gas, in the postcode of 4480.

I went to TAFE in NSW and completed my:-

Electrical Trade - Muswellbrook

Certificate in Industrial Electronics- Bathurst

Certificate in Advanced Industrial Electronics - Bathurst

Partially completed my Associate Diploma in Electrical Engineering -Muswellbrook

Partially completed Certificate in Electronic Communications- Lithgow

Completed many short courses at Tafe including - Data Communications, Electrical Wiring Rules Refreshers.

One of my sons Sam has just completed his re Fridgeration Trade in Brisbane Tafe

and my other son Jack is doing his final block right now in refrigeration . He was also awarded the Apprentice of the year for his 2nd year of TAFE.

It provides a great learning base from people who are generally Trades Qualified. They know what they are doing. The equipment at TAFES tries to keep up with the latest technology as well.

NA

It has only provided me with more qualifications which assisted me in my career.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means that my children have to spend several weeks a year away from home doing block release. This is done with little assistance from anyone.

NA

Not as many courses on offer.

Have to travel to larger centres where courses are available.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it provides a great training platform for the future trades people of this country.

TAFE Colleges are what have trained all the skilled people in this country and the only reason we are going the path of funding cuts is because the people making the decisions are University Trained and do not understand the importance of Trade Skills.

Submitted by

Rodney Rossington of Avondale

Sunday 21st of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, anna Normoyle, of Long Point make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 53 years old and work as a coordinator, in the postcode of NSW 2564.

TAFE has helped me to get the job I now have and has advanced my career.

I completed a diploma of community services through TAFE and the skills I learned were very relevant to the work I am presently engaged in and has given me insight and knowledge in how to work effectively in the CSI.

As a result of completing studies in Tafe my career has advanced and I am now in a more senior position and working in area that I enjoy.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...i can update my skills and then apply these new skills to my work.

Yes I have noticed that there has been cuts in TAFE courses in the CSI and this is a big loss to the local communities.

fewer opportunities to complete courses in the CSI

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need people that wish to work in the CSI to be well trained and this can only happen by ensuring that courses are on offer.

Submitted by

anna Normoyle of Long Point

Sunday 21st of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Daniel Razbusek, of Garden Island make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 24 years old and work as a Technical Officer, in the postcode of 2011.

I am currently nearing the end of my bachelors in Engineering majoring in Electrical at UTS in Sydney. I would have never reached the point where I am today if i had not studied at TAFE. I have been studying part-time since leaving high school in 2006. This study began at Ultimo TAFE in 2007 and was completed in 2009.

TAFE taught me the fundamentals I now use in everyday in all aspects of my employment and study. With further study and advancing in my place of employment I now aid and assist others who are currently studying at TAFE who are also looking to further their career just as I have.

My place of employment uses TAFE to train and accredit our trainees and apprentices. Dealing with these trainees on a regular basis has brought to my attention that classes are harder to enroll in due to classes being overfilled and under resourced. My Time at TAFE saw this problem arise and it has only gotten worse. Each student at TAFE deserves an opportunity to learn in class and not be put behind due to the class being under resourced. This problem will only continue to get worse with even more budget cuts!

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because like myself who has benefited greatly from the TAFE system, I am currently witnessing those in TAFE now are seeing the affects of the budget cuts. I can only imagine what would become of the workforce if the if this continues. Give our younger generations the assistance and guidance to achieve their goals and dreams!

Submitted by

Daniel Razbusek of Garden Island

Monday 22nd of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Cathy Fitzgerald, of Woolloongabba make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 45 years old and work as a Teacher, in the postcode of 4102.

I attended Gateway Tafe in 1989 to learn typing and word processing skills while I was unemployed. I found the quality of teaching to be of an excellent standard and the skills I gained have stood me in good stead until this day. It provided a foundation on which my skill base has been built and consolidated.

I believe TAFE provides practical skills in far reaching areas to improve knowledge and experience in the contemporary workplace.

At a time when I was unemployed the TAFE course I undertook provided me with a purpose and a goal and which improved my mental state and confidence.

I have heard that in the area of personal training, there are practitioners who are "qualified" after a rush 6 or 8 week course. The PT course which TAFE offers is, I believe, a 12 month Cert III, IV and can only be more in-depth and informational. In recruiting a personal trainer I will ensure mine has been TAFE trained. Possibly this short cutting is happening in other areas and professions too.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because education is the backbone of any successful society. A world that values education and training is a better, more skilled, informed and productive society. Any funding cuts to education make it more elitist and out of reach and allows private enterprise to take short-cuts in areas of training, education, skills and possibly safety in the interests of profit over service and quality of product provided. As a recipient of TAFE's benefits I implore you to let other Australians have access to opportunities I was able to.

Cathy Fitzgerald

Submitted by

Cathy Fitzgerald of Woolloongabba

Tuesday 23rd of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Col Baldock, of Walkerston make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 51 years old and work as a Plumbing Contractor, in the postcode of 4751.

I started my apprentice training at TAFE 37 years ago and have been using TAFE to further my skills ever since. I started my own business 22 years ago and currently employ 17 full time tradesmen, apprentices and trainees that have all trained at TAFE. I also have 2 full time admin staff and have used TAFE for administrative training.

We have relied on TAFE to provide our staff with the training and access to resources that we could not otherwise provide. Many of our apprentices have moved on to other positions after completing their training with us and without the training they received at TAFE they would not have been exposed to some of this type of work.

TAFE training would be the most important thing that enabled me to go from being an

employee tradesman, to managing a successful business.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means access to training that we would otherwise have to travel over a thousand kilometers for. We are struggling to get training for a lot of subjects now and any cutting of funding would make this even harder. I believe that more funding needs to be put into TAFE, not less.

We have been approached by training organizations from outside our area but they can't bring the equipment with them and don't have the resources available to provide the training required. They say they will provide the training at the workplace, but if we had the resources we would provide the training ourselves and they would not be needed.

Our local TAFE is no longer able to deliver some courses, and the cost and inconvenience of sending people to Brisbane has made some training impossible.

We have had Gas Fitters with an interim license, unable to access the certificate 4 training and therefore lose their license. They are no longer able to work in the industry.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because it is the only training provider capable of delivering the training that is required in our area.

Submitted by

Col Baldock of Walkerston

Tuesday 23rd of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Sean Hackett, of Brompton make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I learned about the possibilities of TAFE only by chance after commencing a CAD drafting course and learning that I could come away with an engineering diploma that would take me where I needed to go to fully realise what I had to offer. TAFE is one of the things that will preserve the prosperity of this country and is to be cherished and promoted.

Submitted by

Sean Hackett of Brompton

Wednesday 24th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Mary-Ann Tonini, of Bamawm make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 55 years old and work as a secondary school teacher, in the postcode of 3564.

I am a secondary teacher who coordinates a VCAL program for those students who are planning to find work or an apprenticeship once they leave school. Vocational Certificates are an integral part of this program and our students thrive when they are able to access a range of VET.

We need a well trained workforce to thrive as a country and TAFE is crucial to providing Vocational training, particularly for young people who need relevant and practical learning experiences.

I deal with many young people who are benefit from the chance to discover in a hands on environment, what area of work they are passionate about. Sometimes the TAFE

experience can be as much about learning what they don't want to do once they have had a taste at Certificate 11 Level, as it is about confirming their vocational choices.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...choices and futures for our young people who don't have the support that is needed to relocate to a regional centre for university or a larger TAFE. It means our young people are not lost to the district once they gain employment.

Not locally but certainly from reading the newspapers.

Our students are offered fewer VET options and are required to travel 4-6 hours in their school day to access these.

Fewer choices for students and fewer jobs for local people.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because not every student wants or needs to go to university and we need skilled, practical people with meaningful work to do in our local community as well as highly educated people with academic qualifications.

Submitted by

Mary-Ann Tonini of Bamawm

Wednesday 24th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Pam Bettison, of Port Noarlunga South make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

TAFE is a name and an institution that is well known in remote Aboriginal communities in both the NT and the Kimberley. TAFE is highly respected and sought after in these communities. In my experience TAFE is able to provide more culturally aware, and a better level of training to Aboriginal learners than private RTOs.

Submitted by

Pam Bettison of Port Noarlunga South

Wednesday 24th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Siobhan Sinclair, of Tamworth make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am forty five years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2340.

I worked part-time at Tamworth TAFE before we moved to Fiji. I worked in the Literacy and Numeracy program. I was so impressed that TAFE provided a safe learning environment that suited so many people. We had students who had not been happy at their state school for reasons like bullying, being different, slow learner etc. We had other students who had been right through our education system and had been in the work force for many years but still couldn't read, write or use numbers.

The education system needs to provide a safe learning area to meet a variety of needs. TAFE can do that on many levels. By providing an array of educational courses TAFE can strengthen our workforce and bolster the community.

The students who had dropped out of school and continued their education at TAFE were given a second chance for their education. Without TAFE they would have been condemned to a job at the bottom end of the award system.

In Tamworth we are lucky to have many schools. Unfortunately they are very big and cannot always provide the education the community requires. As we are in a regional centre we do not have the access to other educational facilities that our city dwelling folk can attend easily.

I was very disappointed to hear that TAFE had cut some arts programs as TAFE not only can support artists but provide learning opportunities for people who are not necessarily academic.

Submitted by

Siobhan Sinclair of Tamworth

Friday 26th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Lisa Hall, of Beverly Hills make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 43 years old and work as a Customer Service Agent, in the postcode of 2020.

I have recently graduated from Ryde Tafe with a Certificate III and Diploma in event management. Tafe has allowed me to gain great industry contacts as well as confidence in myself. Without the study centre guidance and knowledge I do not believe that I would of achieved my goals of completing my studies. I have many friends who haved studied at tafe and will continue to upgrade their skills and knowledge through tafe.

Tafe is a very practical hands on learning instuition. Tafe has a range of students from high school student through to pensioners. This mixture allows students to study with a broad range of the population similiar to a work enviroment. As tafe allows you to have many practical experiences through your studies you can go to a job site with

knowledge as well as confidence.

I know have completed my studies will be looking to move into the industry of event mangagement. Without my studies and the contacts made through Tafe thhis transition would not be possible. I have friends who have also changed careers through Tafe studies into HR and tourism.

No this does not apply to me as I live in Sydney.

Yes for example WHS courses where you can obtain a qualification in five days as opposed to Tafe in six months. I would always prefer to have a qualification from a well known and recognised education provider. To give an example I obtained my RSA and that company is now no longer operating so I had to sit my RSA again. This scenario will not happen to Tafe if the government stops cutting services and financial support to TAfe.

I was going to study my diploma in WHS this year but the course fee had been increased to almost \$2500. I was not expecting this as I had paid \$750 to complete my Diploma in event management. I have also been advised that some of the study centres will be losing valuable teachers and their skill sets.

Increase in tafe fees which will now impact on student enrollment numbers. Loss of teaching staff who are experienced within their chosen fields. I may know choose not to study at all as I can not afford it as well as my living expenses and my home loan.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we cannot ensure the survival of trades and services in this country without the exceptional traing and knowledge gained through Tafe.

Submitted by

Lisa Hall of Beverly Hills

Friday 26th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Patrick Weir, of Medowie make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 62 years old and work as a Biomedical Technician, in the postcode of 2318 .

*I will be retiring soon

*I have performed technical work in a number of high tech support roles over the last 40 years.

*Atomic Energy Commission (10 years, 3 positions).

*Jubilee Manufacturing (4 years, poker machines, video games and pinballs).

*News Limited (1 year, computerised editorial systems)

*University of NSW (1 year, Applied Science electronics workshop)

*Commonwealth Department of Health (4 years, Sydney Hearing Centre technicians group)

*ANSTO (4 years, Electronic Design Group of the Applied Physics Division).

*QANTAS Airways (1 year, Aircraft Simulators technician group).

*John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, NSW (21 years, Biomedical Technicians Group).

*Early on in my career, I completed the TAFE Electronics and Communications Certificate.

*In my opinion this course had more meat in it than the current "equivalent", the Associate Diploma in Electronics.

*I think that the reason for this is that the syllabus has been continuously watered down over the last 40 years.

*All the difficult material has been removed from the current course (Physics, Mathematics).

*What does not help TAFE of course is continual tinkering and white anting of the TAFE system by political and public service, continually reducing their resources.

*Running parallel to this over the past 40 years has been the incessant tinkering and watering down of the HSC syllabus.

*Consequently, HSC graduates, while they get a HSC certificate, have not really done the hard yards, especially in Mathematics and Physics (and now, I see that the latest educational wisdom is that it is not necessary for students to do any homework).

*Is it any wonder that we are falling behind the rest of the world?

*When we interview applicants for technician positions, we see the harvest of the last 40 years of dreadful educational policies.

*They are dreadful, and are almost all thrown into a panic by the most elementary technical questions.

*Nevertheless, we must select the best of a poor lot.

*Then the difficult (and amusing) part begins.

*The new appointees must be introduced to their task of applying their knowledge (which they do just not have a sufficient supply of) to the solution of technical problems, sometimes with great urgency.

*My amusement comes from supplying them with tidbits of information which they need, and this just goes on and on.

*I suspect that they have an underlying hope that every problem can be solved by playing with a computer.

*The computer is only occasionally a useful tool.

*TAFE has traditionally produced the "hands on" people, who can take a little bit of theory and do something real.

*Unfortunately the horse has bolted years ago and I think we are in a difficult situation now that policy wonks have wrecked TAFE.

*As for "user pays" : this is a completely erroneous concept. 100 years ago State subsidy of health, education, housing, et cetera began, and for a very good reason.

*A "user pays" regime will inevitably result in good health, education, housing for those who can pay (not necessarily the most deserving).

*The rest will form an underclass (Barry O'Farrell's slave class?), like the slave class of ancient Rome or the vast numbers of wetbacks in the USA.

I have only skimmed the surface here. The whole situation is so complex and interwoven that I could talk to you for hours and still only skim the surface. You can phone me if you like and I will talk. I think that it is very difficult to concentrate on one aspect (TAFE). It intermingles with everything.

It is obvious isn't it? The only "qualification" necessary to get a "diploma" from one of these places is to hand over the dosh. It is what they have to do to stay in business. The evidence of this thing happening in our universities is already in.

*I have three 20 something sons, and I see their various progresses as disturbing harbingers of the future.

*I dont know if they think about their lives or not, they do not divulge anything to me.

*In order for them to assess their life and their place in society a level of education is necessary, and in this respect they have been poorly served by their High School, for one reason or another.

Submitted by

Patrick Weir of Medowie

Saturday 27th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Ali Southwell, of Upwey make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 45 years old and work as a Library Officer, in the postcode of 3782.

I have completed 2 TAFE courses and am currently on my third. By enrolling in my course I was able to apply for and obtain work in the field- which was exactly what I wanted and changed my whole outlook about my self and my life.

Traditional TAFE has skilled people from all walks of life in many diverse areas of work. The new structure of TAFE flies in the face of these ideals and will, in my opinion "dumb down" the population leaving potential students who can no longer afford the ridiculous fees disenfranchised from society.

As I said if it was not for the course I enrolled in I wouldn't have got the job I'm now in & love. I have learnt so much and feel like I'm contributing to society. My self esteem has

increased and I feel more independent.

It just makes sense to cater for those in rural or regional areas. Why wouldn't you?
They are human beings too!!!

Well by the end of this year and having completed 6 units...(out of over 20) I will have accrued a VET FEE debt of over \$6000. That's just for this year. If I wanted to remain enrolled & complete my diploma that is the decision I had to make. The irony is that the threshold for paying back the Government this debt is \$50,000 income per year & I'll possibly never earn that amount anyway! Also there was no student diary given out, which I actually used!

Tutors are slower getting back to me (i'm studying off campus) People are unhappy & stressed.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because this has irrevocably affected thousands of people from all walks of life. TAFE learning is fantastic. The infrastructure & courses are already there ready for students and teachers so why scrap them? People love learning- let them! It's healthier than living off Newstart with their mental health declining. The State Government absolutely must reverse it's backward looking and insulting TAFE cuts. Education is Life.

Submitted by

Ali Southwell of Upwey

Sunday 28th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Ed Zussa, of kiama make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 56 years old and work as a tafe Head Teacher, in the postcode of 2190.

Working for TAFE for 25 years Last 6 as a Haed Teacher Engineering Trades

Tafe has been and will continue to be the best providor of skilled tradepeople in Australia Porviding it is properly funded and resources. It conects with industry and strikes a balance between the needs of the employer and the student which can be at odds in some cases. For example an employer might want narrow skills relating directly to their operation where as the student might want broader skills to provide greater career options. Only TAFE can provide this. Our trades people as trained by TAFE in my industry are the envy of the world .

We constantly source and train students who are disengaged from the school system many of whom go on to become supervisors and bussiness owners

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means...

YES I have a student who attends here who was given a full RPL by a private provider over two days for a trade certificate. By our standards he would not pass stage 1 of the trade course. I have forwarded this on to my faculty and have been told that I am not able to challenge another RTO's determination. the fact that the student cant maintain a job in industry tells us that he is below par

As a Head Teacher I have had my budget cut to the point where we are now unable to offer some courses that directly lead to employment. The institutes answer to this is make all these courses comercial which will make them unafordable to the poor and disadvantaged

Our main licencing course was made fully commercial this has seen a drop in student numbers by 50% . Note we are a skills needs indetified area

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded becauseâ€we have the best trade training system in the world and from my experience the private providers that are entering the market are in it for the money not the outcome, this will ultimatly reduce standards and compromise industry safety as well as comunity safety. Not funding TAFE will mean that more and more courses will need to be commercial offedrings therefore making it more and more difficult for the dissadvantaged to gain access for qualifications that provide gainfull employment

Submitted by

Ed Zussa of kiama

Monday 29th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Ian Holdaway, of Sandy Beach make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 54 years old and work as a teacher, in the postcode of 2456.

I have been a teacher of commercial cookery in TAFE for nearly 20 years. I would like to believe that I have been a positive influence on the lives & careers of many young chefs during that time.

A strong & well supported TAFE is vital to training in this country because quality education needs to be funded as an investment into the future. You cannot put a price on learning.

Many of the young people who come into hospitality struggled at school but the different atmosphere at "trade school" gives them a second chance which many of them grab with both hands.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means that access to quality nationally recognised training is available.

We have had many instances where students have left other private providers & come to us because they know they will get better training.

Sections around us including our own are shrinking all the time.

They have reduced the amount & quality of what we are able to deliver.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because if it ceases to do this there will be serious repercussions in the future.

Submitted by

ian holdaway of sandy beach

Tuesday 30th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Richard Morgan, of Manly make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 66 years old and work as a School Counsellor, in the postcode of 2095.

I work as a school counsellor and frequently discuss options available within TAFE which are not available within the school system. I've been a TAFE student in three states myself (in addition to my professional qualifications as a school counsellor) and I'm a current (evening) TAFE student in the automotive trades.

TAFE provides students with options not really available within the school system, where I've been employed for decades. It provides people with skills they otherwise have limited opportunities to obtain.

The TAFE system is an amazing resource. I've seen it enhance student confidence through skill development in Qld, NSW and the ACT. It should never be allowed to run down!

I've also seen TAFE operate to the benefit of early school leavers. Having failed at school for a variety of reasons, these young people have been able to re adjust to a new educational environment, more suited to their aspirations and the way in which they perceive themselves.

Private providers are a second rate alternative to the quality educational setting which TAFE colleges provide. There is no 'educational community' of any significance when courses are outsourced. (I'm thinking of libraries, career counselling services, the dynamic of a functional educational institution).

Yes. In my current courses of vehicle body preparation (panel beating and spray painting), there are new and very restrictive policies on what materials are available. Further, the hours of some employees such as the trade assistants, have been cut.

See my answer to 7 above. I like many other TAFE student have seen TAFE to be under attack on two fronts: First, by government wishing to cut costs and seeing outsourcing as a quick and easy way to do this. Second, by individuals training organisations of often dubious quality, who see outsourcing as a potential source of revenue for themselves.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because we need skills of all sorts. This is an ongoing debate which shouldn't be happening. We want professional training by properly qualified people in an appropriate educational setting. The consequences of appropriate funding for TAFE are: personal skill development for individuals....and a better equipped workforce for the economy as a whole.

Submitted by

Richard Morgan of Manly

Tuesday 30th of April 2013

Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

I, Karen Lisa France, of Highfields make the following statement on the basis of my personal knowledge and beliefs, except where otherwise stated.

I am 49 years old and work as a Parent, in the postcode of 2289.

When my kids are older - I will be re-training to re-enter the workforce.

My kids (oldest 15) may soon be looking at career/further study and TAFE would be a preferred option.

TAFE provides practical skilling up for people of all ages and assists them find meaningful careers in a diverse range of fields. It has always been an accessible form of education and training. Particularly for people with specific needs (eg disability). My eldest child has required extra support in school and this is one of the reasons that TAFE would be a preferred further study option for him once he finishes school- i.e. TAFE provides the extra support needed to allow people to succeed. Also it is possible that he may want to start TAFE while still at school (TVET pathway). This is

a great option for kids to transition from school to adult learning and has been a great success of the current education system - And must be maintained and built upon in the future).

I know many people who have retrained in TAFE in a range of careers such as art, trades, fitness, childcare and community services fields. I too would look at retraining soon at TAFE - perhaps upgrading the fitness qualification I gained at TAFE many years ago. In fact it was my own educational journey of gaining year 10 and year 12 at TAFE in the late 80's and early 90's as a mature age student that springboarded me on to gain a degree in recreation. Now that is a success story - and I want the same opportunities for my 3 kids.

Not living in a big area, being able to go to TAFE means our community relies on TAFE - particularly for young people finding their place in the world.

I have seen many examples of "fly by night" organisations that are not equipped to meet the complex needs of the diverse range of needs that many learners present with (for example physical and learning disabilities - not to mention mental health issues). Now TAFE has trained counsellors and other support staff to assist people with complex needs. Otherwise these people are on the scrap heap - with no future or self worth.

Have seen cuts to arts and hospitality courses due to funding cuts.

Reduced number of courses being offered and increased costs = a less accessible system. TAFE has been a system of education that has been accessible to all - this is changing - only the rich will be able to afford to get an education if things keep going the way they are. Governments have a responsibility to provide vocational education.

I urge the committee to ensure that our TAFE sector is well-funded because our kids need access to affordable and quality education options. Education is a major part of the jigsaw for people to advance their life circumstances and in many cases escape poverty for good. Long live TAFE.

Submitted by

Karen Lisa France of Highfields

Monday 3rd of June 2013