

Dear Committee Secretariat

At the Committee's hearing of the inquiry into TAFE in Sydney on 9 April the Chair asked Mr Shreeve what proportion of TAFE students are second chance learners.

Mr Shreeve and I took the question on notice and agreed to provide the figure at a later date.

In answer to the question we provide the following information:

We have defined 'second chance learner' as follows: 'early school leavers aged 24 years and below and adults aged 25 years and over who have not completed a non-school qualification'. This is the definition used in a study by the NCVER (2008) *Second-chance vocational education and training*. We have replicated their methodology using 2012 TAFE data, the latest available, and find that approximately 27% of the total number of TAFE students are second chance learners. This 27% excludes those attending school who may also be attending TAFE. This finding is in line with the rough figure given by Mr Shreeve at the hearing (30%).

We trust this answers the Senator's question. Please let us know if we can provide any further assistance on this issue.

Kind regards

Marilyn Hart
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Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency