

Saturday, 15 February 2014

The Committee Secretary
Senate Education and Employment Reference
Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

writing a submission in response to the Australian Senate holding an inquiry into TAFE currently. And I am aware of the submissions to the Inquiry is to be close on 7 March 2014.

I therefore would like to structure my submission loosely in respond to the following terms of reference, with an emphasis on the goal, the roles and significant implications of TAFE:-

a) The role played by TAFEs in:

- i. Educational linkages with secondary and higher education,*
- ii. The development of skills in the Australian economy,*
- iii. The development of opportunities for Australians to improve themselves and increase their life, education and employment prospects, and*
- iv. The delivery of services and programs to support regions, communities and disadvantaged individuals to access education, training and skills and, through them, a pathway to further education and employment;*

d) What factors affect the affordability and accessibility of TAFE to students and businesses;

f) The application and effect of additional charges to TAFE students.

Introduction

My name is _____ an orphan adopted into a family coming from NE Asian broken home background. We came to Australia as a migrant family since 1990, and have seen a lot of bad changes happening in Australia. Neither Labor, nor Liberal nor the Green has real workable long term solutions for the problems plaguing the country. Things over all are not getting better but worse. This will continue to be so I am afraid unless **righteousness** and **justice** are upheld and maintained steadfastly from top down in all sectors of society in line with the absolute truth written in the Bible, the Holy Doctrine of God.

My Personal Story

I remember having received support from the TAFE system since I came (attending AMES migrant English Classes and English as a second language for further study and employment). And then I have been using it every now and then to obtain new skills and upgrade my current skills and strengthen my serving capacity to progressively contribute to the wider community and the nation as a whole more effectively whilst earning a decent living without subject myself to exploitation or demanding for luxury. After finishing my high school with average results, I started working from the bottom in an office as an office girl before I did other many odd jobs because of my broken home background. I did not have the support and the blessing from godly parents who would normally set their children up for life if it is in their power to do so. I was instead heavily deprived and abused physically and mentally, though my suffering past was not the worst of its kind. **But Australia's TAFE system helps**

disadvantaged kids like me and people with great struggles in their lives and those with disabilities to have a second chance for better education and employment prospects. This system has had a great impact on those **most needed but disadvantageous in ability to pay** (e.g. their parents are poor and of low income; they are sick and have little to provide for themselves and their children; their children are young, fresh and inexperienced with no or little skills, needing to be supported first.). As a result, I have done a number of Certificates and gained employment after employment and wide-ranging experiences in a number of areas such as IT, Office Administration, Workplace Training and Assessment, Home and Community Care, Nutrition, Electronic Publishing and Graphic Arts. Currently I am doing my diploma of Organic Farming at

I deeply feel very grateful to Australia, more so, to the Most Holy God, who allows Australia to become '*Great*' for a time so as to help so many people/ethnic groups from all over the world in need of survival, especially so since World War II until today. There is no doubt that **TAFE**, to an extent, **plays a vital role to help displaced migrants or refugees to settle in Australian way of life**, for they receive the support they need to help get them back on their feet again not overnight but over time — To some 5 years and to others 10 or 15 years depending on individual factors, family circumstances, and various forms of community support accessible to them in their time of need.

The Success of TAFE

Personally I was subjected to HONG KONG Education System until my high school was completed. I have been to the Philippines twice finding out about their education and vocational systems also to an extent. Nothing is comparable to Australia's **TAFE system** because it **works fairer, more equitable to all** except for the very high education (diploma and above).

The goal of existence of TAFE is to create opportunities of learning through which promote and develop the nation, not the minority rich or the privileged few, into technical skills excellency – To some at junior level according to their ability, to others senior level, and yet to another very advanced level, equipping them with quality-focused competency for taking on different job roles, responsibilities, and functions in order to help meet different levels and natures of need of individuals, businesses, and communities in view of understanding Australian increasingly diversified society.

TAFE offers a wide range of levels of study and of subject areas, suited to meet the needs of clients of varying levels of learning capacity and with aptitude for different fields of learning.

The TAFE system offers pathways to reach higher education for those who could not make it normally through the normal pathway of education. This fills the gap and offers hope for those who missed out in their youth. This also allows opportunities to be made available to those of older generations to return to study and keep on learning and growing professionally as well as personally.

This system encourages every Australian to learn and grow throughout their life time and make continuous contribution to the country as they move along at different stages of their life. Life-long learning in personal and professional growth and development will make Australia rich in her national life and highly competitive in international market places now and into the future.

This is what marks Australia out from all other nations who don't share Australian values in educating and training their people progressively and systematically: stage by stage, step by step, little by little. This is about wise-thinking and forward planning for many generations to come by building into the nation **Human Resources Capital** and investment of such capital for meeting the needs of individuals, families and communities across the country.

My Appeals and Concerns

Therefore I am calling for long term truthful vision for the future of Australia to be seen, recognised and acted upon. Australia prides herself on knowledge, skills, experience, wealth-building and welfare benefactor. She is smart but not wise; she won't be until corruption of all sorts of all levels of authorities is stamped out as thoroughly as possible, including those working within the TAFE system directly and indirectly.

The greatest enemy of all is sin expressing itself in the forms of greed, corruption, deception, mismanagement, abuses and violations, robbing people of what should be given them fairly whilst rewarding those who rot the system to their own advantages and unjust gains.

The life of Australia has reached crisis point, running high risk of being stifled and her room for healthy growth and development being snuffed out. If Australia breathes on that daily, she will end up one day like many countries such as the poverty-stricken Philippines (infamous for its corruption, sexual immorality and idolatry) and North Korea (famous for its idolatry, corruption, deception and military oppression).

Without the TAFE system I would have been homeless, jobless, still struggling in ill health and without hope. Suicide would have been my only option for life. That is why I speak up for all disadvantaged kids in need of TAFE in hoping that their lives would be turned around one day.

TAFE is essential for all but most importantly for us who are from broken homes with traumas and abuses to be dealt with. TAFE has helped me obtain a number of certificates as mentioned earlier, obtain IT diploma and Marketing Diploma. None of us did well in high school at all but TAFE has given us the second chance to make progress in life, being more educated and useful to help meet our needs and then to meet the needs of others in society. This in turn speaks to us all that Australia cares for her people and loves to see them shine and make a difference for her country. When everyone does that, Australia will grow and flourish, being envious of many nations. Australia must daily carefully consider the truth that she reaps what she sows.

Conclusion

Finally my **TAFE Publication** is attached together with my **resume** and some **artwork samples** as part of the evidence in substantiating my submission to the Senate through this letter of appeal for keeping TAFE adequately funded, consistently supported and moving forward in the right direction.