

I wish to submit the following information into the TAFE enquiry:

TAFE is essential to a skilled and educated community for all. Students from disadvantaged backgrounds, and those whose disabilities have impacted on their learning, are able to be supported to re-enter training pathways through TAFE. For example, students who did not 'fit into' school and experienced domestic violence at home and bullying at school, are able to come to TAFE in an adult learning environment and receive excellent support, through TAFE Counselling, and by starting in pathways at a level of education that is achievable for them. They are provided with tutorial support, according to their needs. I have personally seen many students literally turn their lives around and go forward in their chosen career direction, as a result of their 'second chance' education at TAFE. Many people come to TAFE, lacking confidence and with psychological issues such as Depression and Anxiety, or learning disabilities such as Autism, and progress through courses, to achieve a qualification or enter University courses. Women who have been out of the workforce, raising children for many years, are provided with specific confident and skill building courses through TAFE, helping them to be provided with opportunities in their future that would not be possible without TAFE.

Additional charges on TAFE would mean that those in society who are unable to continue in their original profession, would be unable to afford training in a different area. For example, if a tradesman has a back injury and is unable to continue in his or her trade, what options are left for them to retrain through TAFE? They will have to fund their own training. If needing a Certificate IV or above qualification to compete in an alternative career, this person with a long-term back injury will have to pay thousands of dollars, which will in effect, make a career change near impossible for those who have suffered a disability or injury.

TAFE provides opportunities for those who, through no fault of their own, have found themselves underemployed. TAFE provides a chance to have a new direction in life. TAFE will be unable to continue to help multiple people every year to re-enter the workforce in a professional and fulfilled capacity. We will have many more people stuck in jobs which don't use their skills, because they are UNABLE TO AFFORD EDUCATION. In a society which can afford to give everyone a chance at education, TAFE is essential to help people out of the disadvantage and poverty family cycles.

Thanks for including this information in the TAFE senate enquiry,
Sonya Bradford