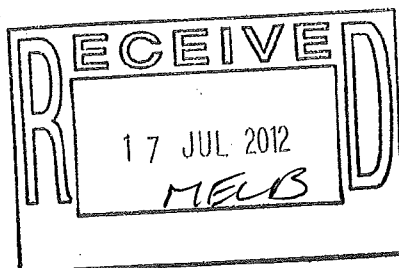
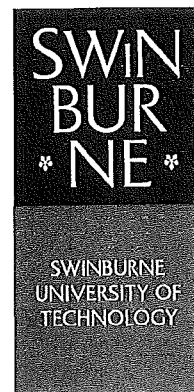


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Mr Chris Robinson
Chief Commissioner
Australian Skills Quality Agency
GPO Box 9928
Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear Mr Robinson,

I am writing to provide you with an update on the changes that Vice-Chancellor Linda Kristjanson announced on Friday 6 July will be implemented at Swinburne University of Technology.

These changes will be important steps towards the accomplishment of the University's vision, which is to become Australia's leading university in science, technology and innovation.

The changes also respond to recent changes in the funding of vocational education and training announced by the Victorian Government.

Vocational education and training provision

Consistent with Swinburne's long-term vision, Swinburne will reshape its TAFE course portfolio for 2013 to align better with Swinburne's focus on science, technology and innovation.

Courses in the following vocational areas will no longer be offered to new students: Automotive, Building (Painting and Decorating), Cookery, Floristry, Food Processing (Wine), Government, Hospitality, Leisure, Local Government, Massage, Public Safety, Recreation and Tourism.

Courses that are no longer viable or for which there is low student demand will be discontinued.

Swinburne will teach out current TAFE students. In exceptional circumstances, where this is not possible, we will negotiate with other providers to ensure students have the opportunity to complete their studies with an alternative high-quality provider.

In making decisions about which TAFE courses Swinburne will continue to teach, we have worked to improve the pathways between our vocational education and higher education course offerings.

Providing opportunities for students to progress from vocational education to higher education has been an important part of the university's mission since Swinburne was established as a university in 1992, so in reshaping our TAFE course profile we have worked to protect and extend the pathway opportunities available to students.

Hawthorn Campus

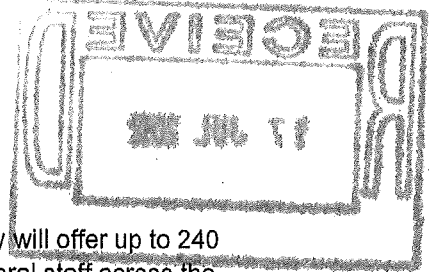
John Street Hawthorn
Victoria 3122 Australia

PO Box 218 Hawthorn
Victoria 3122 Australia

Telephone +61 3 9214 8000
Facsimile +61 3 9819 5454
www.swinburne.edu.au

ABN 13 628 506 699
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Staffing matters

As a consequence of reshaping the TAFE course profile, the University will offer up to 240 voluntary redundancies – 120 for TAFE teaching staff and 120 for general staff across the university.

Expressions of interest will open on Monday 23 July and close on Monday 6 August, with final decisions to be made by 30 September.

A range of advice and support services will be made available to assist staff in their decision-making and to assist staff during what will be a period of considerable change.

Lilydale campus

Fewer TAFE courses that can be offered viably, coupled with a declining demand for higher education at Lilydale, means that it will not be possible to continue offering courses at this campus from 1 July 2013.

This has led to the decision to:

- integrate the Faculty of Higher Education Lilydale (FHEL) with appropriate areas in other faculties from 1 January 2013;
- cease offering TAFE and higher education courses from 1 July 2013.

No new enrolments will be accepted for 2013.

Higher education students studying enrolled at Lilydale will continue in the course in which they are currently enrolled, following the move to Hawthorn in July 2013. Likewise, we will ensure that TAFE students can continue their studies at other campuses, including Croydon and Wantirna.

Swinburne has established a dedicated team known as "Swinburne Connect" to answer students' queries and manage students individually through the transition ahead. Should ASQA receive any inquiries from students, we would be pleased for you to refer them to Swinburne Connect, by phone: (03) 8676 7005 or by email: currentstudent@swin.edu.au.

The Swinburne Connect team is directly contacting all students enrolled at Lilydale this week and throughout July. It is our aim to talk with each Lilydale student now and, throughout the rest of this year, about arrangements for their studies in 2013.

Prahran campus

Swinburne will also pursue the relocation of the Faculty of Design from its Prahran location to the Hawthorn Campus, and TAFE programs currently taught at Prahran to its other campuses.

Significant planning will be required and staff will be consulted throughout the process. Teaching will continue as planned at Prahran for 2012 and 2013.

I would be pleased to provide any further detail about these changes. Swinburne's contact officer for this matter is Dr Tom Aumann, who can be contacted on (03) 9214 4598.

Yours sincerely,

Linda Brown

Acting Vice-Chancellor

Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Director TAFE