

**Submission Number: 109**  
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Dear Sir/Madam,

in relation to the Inquiry into NSW TAFE arts programs, I wish to add to the information that you are seeking regarding the importance of the arts programs at TAFE and of what significance these programs have been to young voters in NSW.

Two of my nieces were able to complete their schooling at TAFE with their focus being on Fine Arts, and they have both now completed Fine Arts Bachelor Degrees at University. Without the opportunity that TAFE Fine Arts was able to provide for them, neither of the young women would now have any chance of working professionally in Fine Arts contributing to the NSW economy. I know another young man who, like my nieces, was too young to leave school, but was not coping with the regulations that he found to be stifling. He has also gone from school to TAFE and has chosen to complete his schooling at TAFE with a very specific focus on Music, Recording and Fine Arts.

Just like my two nieces, he will complete his schooling satisfactorily and will become more than adequately qualified to enter the NSW workforce as a fulfilled and productive member of society. Without the highly regarded and successful options to training that NSW TAFE offers our society, young and old, we will be a much poorer society. We will have many more obligations to try to find alternative sources of training for those members of our society who do not fit the mould we feel necessary to require people to have, but who have every right to find another way to make a life for themselves which will also benefit the society within which they live and work.

I urge you to continue to support Fine Arts training in NSW TAFEs. Without it, our community would have many more problems with people who are unusual but highly valuable to our society.

Yours sincerely,  
Sarah de Jong