



STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

TAFE system is a great Australian asset

Australia's Technical and Further Education (TAFE) system is a unique Australian asset and one which should be protected.

The Standing Committee on Education and Employment tabled its report into TAFE and its operations today. The report, titled *TAFE: an Australian asset*, identifies some key issues facing the TAFE system.

The report places a strong emphasis on the value of TAFE as the nation's public provider of vocational education and training.

Committee Chair, Ewen Jones MP said TAFE is an Australian asset and one which we should be proud of and do our best to protect.

"As one inquiry participant said 'we need diesel fitters just as much as engineers' - a statement which is so true of today's climate. TAFE in Australia needs the support and recognition it deserves and this report calls for that," Mr Jones said.

The Committee has recommended that TAFE's value be recognised by the Australian Government via a statement made through the Council of Australian Governments, acknowledging the unique position of TAFE and setting the directional focus for its future. It also suggests that reporting be put in place to capture federal funding expenditure on TAFE and its application by state governments.

Other recommendations in the report include:

- That concerns around the highly variable quality of training in the VET market be addressed
- That the impact of funding arrangements on TAFE pathways to employment and tertiary education be considered in discussions with states and territories
- That the Australian Government should continue to address loopholes which allow unscrupulous business practices in the competitive training market

The full report and information about the inquiry, including submissions, can be accessed via the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/tafe

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For information on the inquiry: contact the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4573, email ee.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/ee>