

Submission Number: 148
Date Received: 17/04/2013



SUBMISSION

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment Inquiry into the role of Technical and Further education system and operation

Kay Gibson

As a visual art lecturer at the Margaret River TAFE I am making a submission that outlines the significant contributions our course makes to the arts industry and wider community. I am concerned that the increasing cuts to TAFE budgets will reflect negatively on the course and impede its potential for growth.

The development of skills in the Australian economy

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River is a renowned tourist destination that has a thriving and growing tourism industry. The arts make a significant contribution to the local economy and play an important role in enhancing the cultural experience for visitors and residents in the region. The art education courses provided by TAFE can provide skills and knowledge to assist people in the community to gain employment within the arts industry.

TAFE has formed relationships with a number of people in the local arts industry and arts organisations including:

The Melting Pot Glass Studio

Arts Margaret River

Margaret River Art Gallery

Jahroc Gallery

Shire of Augusta Margaret River

Margaret River Highschool

- Employers have sent their staff to specific classes to gain knowledge and skills. Both the Margaret River Gallery and Jahroc Gallery employ gallery assistants who have attended the visual art course.
- A glassblower and co-owner of The Melting Pot Glass Studio have studied art units at the Margaret River TAFE
- As a member of Arts Margaret River Foyer Gallery team I have mentored many TAFE visual arts students in staging their own exhibitions
- The Margaret River TAFE has a close relationship with the Margaret River High School acting as a stepping stone to further education in the arts

The development of opportunities for Australians to improve themselves and increase their life and employment prospects

The Visual Arts course at the Margaret River Education Campus serves the community by allowing people of all ages to gain skills and refresh skills that will enable them to lead more fulfilling lives. Many people who join the classes gain knowledge about the arts that feeds directly into the economy and culture of the community. Over the years I have seen past students take a great interest in the visual arts making purchases, attending exhibitions, entering competitions and staging their own exhibitions. Our community is attaining a growing reputation as an artists' hub attracting tourist dollars. Art education has an important role in supporting people who wish to work in the arts industry both within this community and further afield.

The operation of a competitive training market

TAFE has a fantastic art facility at the Margaret River Education Campus. Funding needs to be at a level that supports all the teaching materials required by lecturers to deliver a high quality art course. Funding also needs to be sufficient to grow the arts course and to purchase additional equipment when necessary. Cuts have been made within the course I deliver;

- reduced teaching hours
- No professional development
- No colour photocopying for student hand-outs

My concerns are that the increasing cuts to TAFE budgets will reflect negatively on the Visual Arts Course at the Margaret River Education Campus and impede its potential for growth.

Kay Gibson

Visual Art Lecturer

Margaret River Education Campus