

A Submission;

The Committee Secretary  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**To the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and  
Employment *Inquiry into the role of Technical and Further Education system  
and its operation***

I am writing as a Tafe employee with over 25 years' experience in teaching and delivery in various programs across the Primary and Allied Industries areas principally Horticulture and Agriculture;

In that time I have witnessed the demise of TAFE as credible learning and teaching provider. I first witnessed the real cuts as we entered the Iraq War in the 2000's the money seemed to dry up from there on.

In the remaining years I have seen a general withering away of what was once a very vibrant, credible and healthy learning environment into what I can only describe now, as a failed attempt at an American style, university money making venture that here in Australia is doomed to fail.

Why, you may ask? Because of the diversion of money away from a system that has worked well in the past, into one that cherry picks courses that make money as oppose to educating people for the benefits of us all, it's that simple.

This then allowed for private providers to cash in on profitable course with dubious outcomes, the rise in personal and fitness trainers springs to mind.

But what about educating for the really hard issues;

Where's the training learning and research which is needed for important areas like;

How will Australia adapt to climate change and its effects on our ability to grow store and harvest food?

What are we doing educationally to help our Indigenous /regional people in the more remote and isolated regions of Australia and the bush?

Australia like the rest of the world is facing enormous challenges; we need smart people who can find a way forward.

Research show that children develop at different stages in their educational growth and while we would all want them to enter at age 5 year 1 and progress through to year 12 age 17, having accumulated all the necessary knowledge we deem essential throughout the intervening years. This is not the reality.

That's where TAFE comes in and promotes those people who have fallen by the proverbial way side, we step in and bridge the gap between those students for whom the system has failed, to those who we educate and encouraged to go on to University.

It's that simple.

Further funding cuts to the TAFE budget is short sighted and a retrospective move.

**STOP THE CUT AND FUND TAFE NATIONALLY AND PROMOTE A FIRST CLASS EXCELLENT EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM THAT WORKS.**

It's that simple.

We have only to look at the Finnish Model for education to know that privatisation will not work in Australia.

Nicola Samson

5/4/2013

South Australia