
From:
Sent: Sunday, 21 April 2013 6:48 PM
To: Committee, EE (REPS)
Subject: Submission: TAFE and its operation

Submission: TAFE and its operation

Downgrading/Elimination of Visual Arts

Visual Arts education addresses ALL of the following, yet it has been the first area to face drastic cuts throughout NSW

- Development of skills in the Australian economy
- The development of opportunities for Australians to improve themselves and increase their life and employment prospects
- The delivery of services and programs to support regions, communities and disadvantaged individuals to access training and skills and through them a pathway to employment
- The operation of a competitive training market
- Those jurisdictions in which state governments have announced funding decisions which may impact on their operation and viability

I personally trained at ESTC for four years receiving a Diploma in Arts (Education) and worked for 34 years teaching Visual Art in secondary schools and 10 years teaching part time in TAFE as well as making, exhibiting and selling work. I have had an ABN for 12 years. I am just one of the many who have gone on to make my living directly as a result of TAFE Art education.

The Visual Arts in one way or another leads to employment in a huge variety of fields, quite apart from its important role in the development of creative, flexible individuals who can adapt to a changing work environment. Yet we are told that these courses (Fine/Visual/Creative Arts) are not Vocational!

Arts education fulfils many other important functions in the personal & social development of well rounded individuals leading to an improved society but I understand that such "high minded" ideas are not rated highly by the "bean counters" who administer our state education system.

Helen Nugent