

27 September, 2002.

Institute for Education

The Secretary,
Standing Committee on Education and Training
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir,

Re: Inquiry into Vocational Education in Schools

We apologise for the late response to your letter of 30 July addressed to Professor Gilah Leder. Due to the absence overseas of Professor Leder, the information was delayed in reaching this office.

The Institute for Education at La Trobe University offers the only 2-year Graduate Diploma program in Victoria for training candidates with a trade or technical background and industry experience to become secondary school teachers. The Graduate Diploma in Technology Education is designed to train teachers in the Technology Key Learning Area from Years 7 - 10 and the more specialised areas of the Technology Curriculum at VCE Level: (i) Systems and Technology, (ii) Design and Technology, (iii) Food Technology and (iv) Information Technology. Graduates are qualified to teach in one or more of these areas and also in the VCE Vocational Education and Training subject area depending on their prior qualifications and industry experience.

At the end of 2002, the first cohort of students in the program (approximately 50) will graduate and be available for registration to teach in schools. We expect a continuing intake of approximately 50 students per year to be enrolled at the Bundoora, Bendigo and Albury-Wodonga campuses of La Trobe University. Students applying to the course come from a variety of Trade and Technology backgrounds: Fitting and Turning, Construction, Cabinet Making, Hospitality, Electrical Fitting, Agriculture/Horticulture, etc.

La Trobe University's initiative in developing the Graduate Diploma in Technology Education course has been welcomed by school principals. The shortage of teachers in this area is critical. Both school principals and the school community have expressed the need for the continuing expansion of resources in Design and Technology and Vocational Education and Learning in schools.

Within its Graduate Diploma in Education (Secondary DipEd) one year postgraduate program, La Trobe University also provides the opportunity for students from the conventional Bachelor degree background, with suitable qualifications and industry experience, to undertake VET and/or Technology teaching method as part of their studies.

Enclosed is a brochure on the Graduate Diploma in Technology Education. Also enclosed is information on the one-year Graduate Diploma in Vocational Education and Training that qualifies candidates to teach in the TAFE sector.

Should you require further information, staff involved in the program will be available for discussion.

Yours sincerely,



Marion J. Sargeant
Academic Programs Manager, Bundoora Campus

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