

TAMWORTH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

c/- PO Box 906
TAMWORTH, 2340

The Chairperson,
House of Representatives Education and Training Committee.
Suite R1/106
Parliament House
CANBERRA
A.C.T. 2600

Dear Sir/ Madam,

At the September monthly meeting, the Tamworth Teachers' Association passed a motion, after some discussion, regarding the impact of vocational courses on the secondary curriculum. This is the motion:

"The Tamworth Teachers' Association wishes to draw notice to the concerns of a large number of teachers in Tamworth secondary schools regarding the impact of VET courses on core teaching hours and subjects.

Compulsory work placement of up to 70 hours per course and external timetables, driven by TAFE remove students from other in-school classes, having a resultant impact on the delivery of those courses. The impact is still greater on those students taking multiple VET courses. Recognition of this trend needs to incorporate controls in the future, to guarantee the delivery of the core curriculum."

It was felt that the pressure on staff to complete these core courses along with the ensuing pressure on VET students to catch up the work they miss is untenable and needs to be addressed by those in the position of planning and administering the said courses.

Having seen an article in the INFORM magazine, the Association recommended that this information be directed to your Committee for consideration.

There is no intention to detract from the value of vocational courses and opportunities for students in this motion, but rather to call for more detailed consideration of course requirements and the time lost to other compulsory courses in the planning and administration of vocational education.

Thanking you for the opportunity to make a submission to your Committee, drawing attention to these problems,

Yours faithfully,



Louise Vyner
Minutes Secretary, Tamworth Teachers' Association.