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Dear Sir/Madam

As an enthusiastic amateur painter and a strong supporter of the role of the creative arts in society one of my concerns about the more recent funding cuts to TAFE NSW is the cutting of the arts programme in part through the imposition of commercial fees.

TAFE, as the public provider, has traditionally provided a pathway for many people to vocational work and the arts courses are no exception to this – only the outcomes may sometimes be more varied and less clear cut than other vocational areas, ranging from applied technical skills to an ability to solve problems and think creatively.

Much lip service has lately been paid to the importance of a clever and creative society; one example is the new arts policy of the federal government which has much to commend it. Surely the state government is swimming against a very healthy trend by cutting access to arts programmes.

As we have already seen, once commercial fees are imposed enrolments drop markedly, many excellent teachers are lost and access for many students is cut off. I feel particularly strongly about the loss of community in country towns which this often entails.

Please reconsider and recommend the re-installation of TAFE NSW arts courses non-commercially!

Yours sincerely
Janet E Moore