

**Submission Number: 118**  
**Date Received: 12/04/2013**

*JE*

Submission:

TAFE was the only place that people who are not in full time work could gain further skills to enhance either their own personal skills or their employability skills at a reasonable cost. Private providers are just too expensive and don't have reasonable hours such as evening classes which TAFE used to have.

My son, a mature aged man, who didn't think he could handle a full uni degree, started his study in agriculture at TAFE and did well under the excellent support and encouragement from the ag teachers. He then went onto Uni where he finished his degree in Rural Science and Agribusiness. Now without the TAFE start, he would not have completed this work, and with results that show at least half of his subjects finished with HD or D passes. TAFE provided the basis on which to build and he still states that he learnt more at TAFE in a practical sense than he did at uni.

There are just so many industries that are supported by TAFE studies – from cottage industries like 'cut flowers' where people trying to get into this work come to do Floristry courses; to young fashion designers doing Fashion courses to hone their knowledge.

And the impact that TAFES have in regional areas so that students don't have to go to the 'big smoke' to further their education and particularly using the pathways onto uni – that's a huge saving as it allows students to live at home and be supported by family.

Elizabeth Law