



Date: Thursday, 11 April 2013 10:32:35 AM

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Hello at the Senate Inquiry,

TAFE Critical for Australia

I am now retired, a naturalised Australian and consider the threat to TAFE is a serious threat to the future wellbeing of Australia. I migrated to NZ at age 16 after leaving school at 15 in Glasgow, became an apprentice electrician in Auckland and struggled with the Technical College aspect of my apprenticeship. At age 23, convinced I wasn't very smart, I came to Aus. and after a couple of jobs as a tradesman was fortunate enough to get a job with Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) who provided a 3 month adult training course for technicians. On completion of this I realised that I wasn't intellectually challenged after all but just missing a year of secondary schooling. DCA encouraged further education through TAFE and once started I never looked back.

In considering the range of TAFE qualifications I have gained over the years and finally capping my academic record off with an MBA, I can say with considerable conviction; TAFE was the vehicle that provided the qualifications and experience that gave me the varied and interesting career path that led me to a self supporting retirement, not to mention the pride I now feel at my academic achievement.

There are two key aspects that I would like this Senate Inquiry to take note of in considering the above a) I have enjoyed a fulfilled life that b) leaves me in a financially independent retirement - not dependent on the State.

In conclusion, while the DCA adult training course was the switch that turned on the light of education, without TAFE I would have still been very limited in further options for educational development. Therefore, please take action to develop, reinforce and stabilise this great source of education for the self motivated (but often unaware of the benefits) of our great egalitarian society.

Sincerely,

Clark McCallum