

**Subject:** cuts to art at TAFE  
**Date:** Thursday, 18 April 2013 2:44:09 PM

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To whom it may concern

I am very concerned with the increased pressures on TAFE which have resulted in a significant downgrading of the art classes taught there. Many students (including my partner) have begun studying art at TAFE and gone on to study it at university level. My partner uses art on a weekly basis and to great advantage when she works with disadvantaged women through TAFE and the Women's Centre; the quality of this would be much lower if she had not studied art in depth over a number of years.

Art is an important way of engaging people, healing and empowering them. Art classes enhance any community, giving some a hobby and a meaning to life while giving others valuable skills which can be taken into any job. I was a TAFE art teacher for several years, and it has been disheartening to see my colleagues struggling to find work, and even having to move to cities. I have seen many former students use their art skills in various ways, ranging from designing and building houses to set design for theatres.

Colleagues in other areas of TAFE, such as film-making, are understandably nervous as the knife moves closer to them. In a wealthy country during a mining boom, we should be able to afford some culture in our public education system.

regards

Marty Branagan