

Submission Number: 112
Date Received: 12/04/2013



Dear members

As a child protection caseworker I cannot recommend highly enough the courses offered by TAFE in the area of work trades and art.

I recently had the experience of assisting a 16 year old young man to obtain entry to a Welding course at TAFE. This boy has a slight intellectual disability and speech impediment. Employment for this boy was a very limited option as employers were usually unwilling to employ him. He is well capable of completing the course and because of the opportunity offered him and his willingness to try he started the TAFE course and continued to apply for work.

Because of his TAFE course, a manufacturing firm gave him the opportunity for work as a welder and he is now employed 2 days per week and at TAFE the other days. He has been offered full time work when he finishes at TAFE. He has gained not only a job and a trade, but also enormous confidence in himself and the respect of his family and friends. He will make it in life with this confidence. Many of the young men who went to school with him are already in trouble.

This is a rural area and opportunities for young people are few. TAFE changes lives for young people, especially young men and those who struggle to find work in a very competitive rural market. Please support TAFE; it is the lifeblood of rural areas.

Rasata Knight