

Subject: Tafe
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Hello my name is Teresa Lee-Winser and I am currently studying at Coffs Harbour Tafe. My courses are the study options deleted from the recent Tafe cuts.

Three years ago I went into a wheelchair unexpectedly and my whole world changed overnight...I went from being hard working passionate Teachers support assistant who was totally dedicated to my school and community, as well as being a very active mother of three children, to a total mess!! everthing in my world changed, my belief in my ability to succeed in anything diminished rapidly...I lost confidence and self esteem, not to mention a lot of my friends. I had always worked hard, paid my bills and lived my life without being a burden to society, I have always helped others less fortunate than myself, in any way possible. My life felt as though it had ended and I wish it had for a very long time...

That all changed when I started to study visual art...I not only found myself again ..I was good at it as well! I became someone who is creative and had something to offer in the work force...I would love to go on and teach children and adults with disabilities, communication through art. This is apparently not a valuable asset!! how come then ...I am already volunteering my time to teach the University of the Third Age Students as well programming for 500 children in vacation care art and craft programs? Is this not employment that I can gainfully achieve and be paid for **once I have a qualification?** Maybe I should stay at home and end up doing what I originally planned, before Tafe and the amazing support and structure taught to me by inspiring art teachers.....That was to find a way to end the financial burden, self loathing, stress and physical and emotional burden , that is still placed on my family...Is the world going to be a better place if I am not here? Is my chosen career path not worthy of some support? how am I expected to achieve anything... when the government doesn't really believe I have anything worthwhile to offer anymore..except to sit behind a desk...I am one of Australia's most creative individuals...please help me to show you what I can do?
Teresa Lee-Winser