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To whom it may concern

In late 2005 I moved from a country town to Newcastle to enrol my daughter into the Performing Arts School

.Aged 54, I was unemployed at that time with my only income the parenting payment. In Feb 2006 I enrolled at Hunter Institute of TAFE at Tighes Hill Newcastle. I chose to do Certificate IV in Community Services as the community sector provides pathways to employment which can provide flexible hours to women with children.

By September of that year I had gained full time employment and was able to complete my certificate with the support of the wonderful staff at Hunter TAFE. The majority of women enrolled in the course have found permanent ongoing work supporting disadvantaged community members in Newcastle.

This course and the Diploma course that followed gave us all a very comprehensive grounding in the community sector. Every single TAFE teacher was experienced and well qualified. The students are highly sought after as employees. Many of the mature students were lacking in confidence at the beginning of the course but each one found the teaching support to be invaluable.

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to complete this certificate. I have maintained my contact with many of the students and teachers I met there.

I have been consistently employed since the completion of my certificate in 2006. I am very grateful to the TAFE system and would like to be reassured that TAFE will continue as a practical pathway into employment.

Please do not take away our TAFE's!

Yours truly

Kathleen Kelly