

**Submission Number: 146**  
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I wish to make a submission for the enquiry of the role of TAFE and its operation. I'm happy for it to be made public.

After leaving school I didn't have the opportunity to study at University so TAFE was the only option for me in my tiny hometown. So from 2009 to 2011 I studied Visual art at Central Western TAFE in Bathurst and Orange NSW.

In my time at TAFE I learnt a great deal. Tafe provided wonderful opportunities for people who wanted to study but who could not for various reasons. Be it due to work, family, money or disability.

In my time at TAFE I was taught by a wide range of wonderful teachers and established plenty of great friendships with similar minded people. At the conclusion of my studies in 2011, I won the Country Energy Youth Award. An renowned Australia wide landscape painting prize.

In 2012 I began study at the Australian National University. If it wasn't for the affordable gateway that TAFE provided, I wouldn't be here in higher education.

Cutting TAFE is not only a devastating loss for the community, but for Australia as a whole. Ordinary people are denied access to affordable education, community's are robbed of local art and most crucially, the affordable gateway to higher education has been destroyed.

~tb