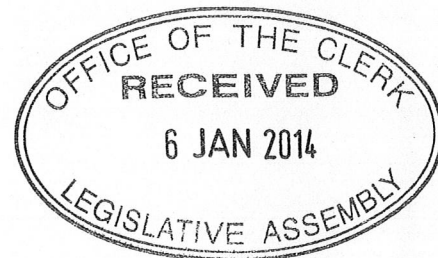




The Hon. Adrian Piccoli MP
Minister for Education



Ms Ronda Miller
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

MT13/1550

Dear Ms Miller

I write in response to a petition lodged with the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of New South Wales by Ms Carmel Tebbutt MP, Member for Marrickville, on 21 November 2013, requesting the provision of funding to TAFE NSW to provide second chance and further education opportunities for disadvantaged people and their communities.

TAFE NSW is a key component of the Government's strategy to strengthen the skills base of the New South Wales economy and support economic growth for New South Wales communities.

In August 2013, I issued a Statement of Owner Expectations for TAFE NSW, which explicitly sets out the role of TAFE NSW to ensure stability at the centre of the New South Wales training market and provide training to meet the State's skill priorities. The Statement of Owner Expectations requires TAFE NSW to:

- be a state-wide service and an effective and sustainable network of Institutes
- offer broad choice of courses to meet industry needs including through partnerships with schools and universities
- provide inclusive services to ensure people facing disadvantage can access the range of education services
- deliver skills critical to the New South Wales economy to meet emerging training needs by region and industry
- lead quality, innovation and customer focus in service delivery through the provision of high-quality teaching, learning and assessment as well as reducing complexity and improving customer services
- operate as a sustainable business including by being more competitive, offering more services on a commercial basis and achieving efficiencies
- be an employer of choice to attract the best people to deliver the critical skills the New South Wales economy needs and work collaboratively with business.

The Statement of Owner Expectations also sets out new directions for TAFE NSW during a period of reform.

As the State's public provider of vocational education and training, TAFE NSW must be free to evolve and change so it can operate efficiently and remain relevant to the communities it serves. The Statement clarifies the Government's expectations for TAFE in an increasingly competitive environment.

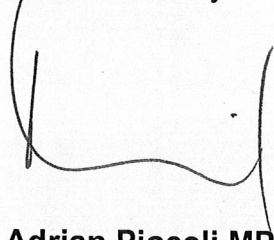
Under Smart and Skilled, TAFE NSW will have funding certainty with a separate and distinct budget that includes:

- operational base funding in recognition that TAFE NSW has additional requirements to meet as a public institution
- community service obligation (CSO) payments to support high cost and low demand training in critical areas, including identified disadvantaged learners, regional and remote areas and low demand, high cost qualifications

TAFE NSW will also be able to access Smart and Skilled entitlement funds.

Regarding the misinformation on entitlement, I can advise that there is no limit on the number of entitlement qualifications that can be undertaken if eligibility requirements are met. However, students pay a higher fee for subsequent qualifications after completing an initial post-school qualification. This recognises the need for re-skilling and opportunities for people to change career in the real world of work.

Yours sincerely



Adrian Piccoli MP
Minister for Education

23 DEC 2013