



The Hon. Adam Marshall MP
Minister for Tourism and Major Events
Assistant Minister for Skills

Reference: OM18/1825

Mr Alex Greenwich MP
Member for Sydney
Ground Floor
21 Oxford Street
DARLINGHURST NSW 2010

Dear Mr Greenwich

Thank you for your email of 20 August 2018 to the Deputy Premier regarding the significant role TAFE NSW plays in our State. The Deputy Premier has asked me to respond to you as the Minister responsible for TAFE NSW.

The NSW Government is undertaking once-in-a-generation reforms to strengthen and modernise TAFE NSW and ensure it better meets the needs of students, the community and industry. These reforms have brought together 10 autonomous institutes, 12 online brands, 220 websites, 11 corporate offices, which were all competing against one another to win market share, into One TAFE.

One of the core objectives of the One TAFE modernisation is redirecting resources into frontline teaching by reducing administrative duplication and layers of management, which is why TAFE NSW is undertaking an unprecedented recruitment drive for an additional 253 frontline teachers.

NCVER data does not specifically identify TAFE NSW enrolments. For NSW, the NCVER "TAFE" data includes all NSW residents enrolled in a TAFE, including border residents attending TAFE in Victoria and Queensland, as well as online enrolments with interstate TAFEs.

NCVER data actually shows that apprentice trade commencements in NSW increased by 4.0% in 2017 (from 21,700 to 22,575) compared to a 0.4% increase nationally. TAFE NSW provides training for approximately 80% of all NSW apprentices. More TAFE NSW students are studying apprenticeships, full qualifications and other quality courses. They are transitioning from short courses to full qualifications that will enhance their job prospects and lead to employment outcomes.

TAFE NSW and other government provider enrolments in Certificate III and Certificate IV qualifications have also increased, by 5.8% and 5.9% against the national trend. This contrasts with Victoria and Queensland, where the number of students enrolled in Certificate III qualifications has declined between 2013 and 2017.

TAFE NSW is a government agency, and so it is prudent with expenditure of its funds and has improved its systems to strengthen the management of public resources. There is no purchasing freeze on essential supplies in TAFE NSW.

This Government continues to support and invest in the future of TAFE NSW, the public provider of vocational education and training for our great State. This Government believes that and the people of NSW deserve an education and training system that is responsive and flexible to the needs of industry, and one that delivers the workforce of the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam Marshall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Adam" being more prominent than the last name "Marshall".

Adam Marshall
MINISTER