



10 August 2018

**To all Members of NSW Parliament**

### **TAFE NSW Budget in crisis**

The TAFE Community Alliance has been receiving alarming reports of budgetary problems in TAFE NSW, and funding not being allocated to frontline services such as teaching and student support services. This has been highlighted in a media report today around a lack of toilet paper in TAFE NSW facilities.

The budgetary issues became apparent when a staffing freeze was implemented a few months ago, recruitments stopped midway through the process and all staff were asked by the Managing Director to attempt to find savings.

At the same time recent figures from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) have shown the following drops in enrolments, compared to the increase in private provider enrolments.

<b>TAFE NSW stats</b>	2015	2016	2017	% change 2016-2017
<b>From NCVER, Total VET Activity 2017 Data Slicer</b>				
TAFE NSW Students	317090	321140	281550	-12%
Private Provider	693235	689930	741480	+7%
TAFE NSW Program (course) enrolments	440440	551440	479335	-13%
TAFE NSW "Fee for service" subject enrolments	939990	822905	663920	-19%

TAFE NSW apparently claims that one of the issues is the decrease in students enrolled in Diploma and Associate Diploma courses. This of course was to be expected given the VET FEE-HELP

debacle, but surely a well-managed organisation would have catered for this. As you can see private provider enrolments are still growing.

One of the issues that concerns us is the way the costs of the current 'One TAFE' restructure have blown out. TAFE NSW has continued to employ significant numbers of contract staff to undertake the work associated with this restructure, up until the freeze we assume. The restructure was meant to be about making savings arising from removing the duplicated services that previously existed across the ten Institutes, however we understand that areas such as Business Development have now a team of just over a hundred staff of whom 35 are TAFE managers. The Alliance believes that not only is funding that should be allocated to frontline services being used for administration and restructuring, but that the number of managers has grown enormously. At the same time delegations have been removed from TAFE Head Teachers and others, forcing them to have to spend increased amounts of time, not managing their educational sections and supporting teachers, but rather pursuing the approval processes through what is now, a bureaucratic top-heavy organisation.

These issues are indicative of an organisation undergoing a budgetary crisis. We ask you to take this matter up with the relevant Ministers and ensure that the TAFE NSW budget is used primarily for the provision of quality education and support for TAFE teachers. Above all we are concerned that government funding for TAFE NSW is not being allocated in the interests of the education and training of the people and the economy of NSW.

Contact Linda Simon, [lindasimon2@bigpond.com](mailto:lindasimon2@bigpond.com) for more information or to set up a meeting.

Yours sincerely

Linda Simon - a spokesperson for the TAFE Community Alliance