

FACTSheets

Smart & Skilled

TAFE Community Alliance

- A more severe version of this reform *Smart and Skilled* will be implemented in NSW at the commencement of 2014 which is effectively a blueprint for privatising VET.
- *Smart and Skilled* will provide 'An' entitlement for eligible individuals to government subsidised training up to and inclusive of Cert III.
- While *Smart and Skilled* will not be implemented until next year some institutes across NSW have already deleted and earmarked for future deletion a number of equity, trade and vocational positions.
- The NSW government has stopped funding art education in TAFE, leaving 4,000 students without access to finishing their courses in 2013 unless they can pay fees of \$5,500 to \$8,800 per year. Under *Smart and Skilled* this removal of funding will be replicated across all vocational areas that are not in skill shortage areas reducing choice for students and favouring the wealthy.
- *Smart and Skilled* Quality Framework states that students will be able to choose their provider using the *Smart and Skilled Portal* however this process alone will not direct students to courses, especially considering many JSAs direct their clients to their own training facilities and many students are lured to private providers advertisement offering FREE ipads and laptops.
- The granting of 'an' entitlement and the emphasis by *Smart and Skilled* on course completions further disadvantages students with disabilities and other barriers to learning who may take several courses or a longer time before completing a vocational qualification.

TAFE IS TOO IMPORTANT TO LOSE!