



MEDIA RELEASE

Fewer TAFE students and fewer teachers and more administrative staff

The news is bad in the just released TAFE NSW Annual Report. There is a loss of \$239m over the year 2017/18.

Support staff have increased from 4194 in June 2017 to 4568 in June 2018. Teaching staff have declined from 5482 to 5458.

Vocational education and training enrolments in NSW counted by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) showed the highest fall in VET (mainly TAFE NSW) in 2016-17 of 6.8%.

The details of the Annual Report appear to smack of a 'Yes Minister' situation in TAFE NSW.

Employee related expenses are \$91m higher than budgeted, and other operating expenses are \$34m higher. This is due to the restructure of TAFE NSW, commonly referred to as **One TAFE**. This poorly conceived and designed model is causing anxiety for potential students and industry alike. This is despite the large number of contractors and non-permanent staff employed to fix the mess.

The Report predicts only a \$60m loss in 2018-19 financial year, but this is dependent on an increase in sales revenue, mainly from student fees and fee-for-service courses. Given the lack of confidence students and industry are currently showing in TAFE NSW, this is a 'brave' prediction. The **One TAFE** restructure has been dogged by:

- Continuing budgetary issues, a bit like Westconnex;
- A poor enrolment and administrative system that keeps falling over;
- A growth in management numbers with little or no educational background;
- Cuts to courses in many TAFE colleges;
- Cuts to teaching and educational support staff including in Disabilities and Counselling; and
- Overly bureaucratic processes that are stifling educationally innovative programs.

"How will TAFE NSW contain its budget blowout next year and in the future?" said Linda Simon of the TAFE Community Alliance. "Our fear is that it will do this by again cutting educational services, courses for students and permanent high quality teachers."

Linda Simon said that the TAFE Community Alliance recently held a trivia night with hundreds of people attending. "This night was the commencement of our election campaign – **StandUp** for TAFE. This disastrous report makes it even more important that all concerned citizens do exactly that – **StandUp for TAFE**, and ensure that political candidates make it an important election issue for the state and federal elections," said Linda.

Please contact Linda Simon lindasimon2@bigpond.com or Jozefa Sobski jsobski@ozemail.com.au to discuss these issues further.

Contact: Linda Simon 0411550439 or Jozefa Sobski 0403895929