

Young people need a future. TAFE offers them one.

STAND UP FOR TAFE

at 2019 Federal & State elections



TAFE – in the past, for the present, ensuring the future.

TAFE provides quality education, the cornerstone of vocational education and training

Students and employers consistently report they are highly satisfied with their TAFE courses, but only around half of VET students now study at TAFE. Enrolments fell again this year reflecting a lack of public confidence in the VET sector overall, and the deliberate policy of the Federal government to favour private providers over public TAFE. A few years ago TAFE courses were affordable, providing opportunities for young people to gain a first qualification and for older workers to retrain as their jobs changed. Now fees for VET courses have increased to an average from \$4,000 to \$22,000 and studying at TAFE can now cost more than a university course. TAFE NSW enrolments have dropped further in 2018. The Berejiklian government appears intent on closing campuses and replacing TAFE educational facilities with shopfronts and rooms in clubs.

TAFE has been the trusted deliverer of vocational education and training for well over a hundred years.

But poor government policy has created a competitive training market and there are now over 4000 training organisations in Australia. Many of these are for-profit organisations with the primary aim of making money and using your tax-dollar to do so. Competition between training organisations has not resulted in improved choice and quality for potential students, but rather high fees, VET FEE-HELP rorts and fewer courses in fewer locations

Stop the rorts: fund public TAFE!

The VET Student Loans Ombudsman has received around 6405 complaints in just over 12 months from students who were either incorrectly signed up to a VET FEE-HELP loan or whose training organisation went bankrupt leaving them high and dry. Most students now need to take out a loan to study high level VET courses. Many students will never earn enough money to pay off these loans. They face a lifetime of debt.

Has a competitive training market improved the quality of a training course? The simple answer is no. Some private training providers continue to make huge profits and with government funding for VET at its lowest point in over a decade, serious changes are needed.

These elections we ask all political parties to commit to ensuring TAFE's future.

- Ask your local candidates if they will commit to a strong well-funded future for TAFE and no sale of TAFE colleges or facilities.
- Vote for candidates in these Federal and state elections who will support and fund TAFE as the most important quality provider of vocational education and training in this country.
- What you can do now! Join the Alliance's campaign and other TAFE campaigns. Make sure your local members and candidates know that you require them to **Stand Up for TAFE** too.

STAND UP FOR TAFE in 2019

Authorised by TAFE Community Alliance www.tafecommunityalliance.org.au

TAFE Community Alliance



Who are we?

The TAFE Community Alliance is an advocacy and strategy group that promotes the central role of the public VET provider in the building of social, cultural and economic capacity of communities across NSW. The Alliance campaigns to maintain TAFE's central role in vocational education and training.

No matter who you are TAFE is open to everyone.

TAFE gives everyone a second chance, the opportunity to learn skills for employment and an opportunity to contribute to the community. If you are uncertain about your career or need more education and training; TAFE has always been there - affordable, accessible - providing great quality education and professional specialist student support. There has been a TAFE College in every community across NSW.

Objectives of TAFE Community Alliance

1. To advocate for improvements in community, equity and public interest in the provision of TAFE.
2. To consult and work with various community and educational organisations and parties to improve the provision of TAFE.
3. To meet as a group of interested professionals and citizens to maintain a mutual understanding of the development of TAFE/VET in NSW and the Australian context.
4. To promote access and equity and further education in the provision of TAFE.
5. To provide and respond to various policies and initiatives to promote improvements in the funding and the provision of comprehensive quality programs, equipment and TAFE facilities.

We welcome your support to help build our campaign

The TAFE Community Alliance campaigns for TAFE. It is open to teachers, educational staff, community organisations, industry members and others. Our immediate plans include:

- Raise funds for our campaigns. If you would like to make a donation, you should make a direct debit: TAFE Community Alliance, BSB: 012372, Account No: 2086 95147. If you would like to join us, contact: Linda Simon on lindasimon2@bigpond.com, or one of the organisers here tonight.
- Create awareness of the effects of the competitive training market and loss of funding for TAFE
- Work with other groups interested in pursuing this campaign, including community groups, industry, unions and political parties
- Provide case studies of TAFE's role in changing lives and the community
- Communicate with media and social networks
- Lobby politicians and candidates in the lead-up to elections 2019 to make reinvesting in TAFE an important electoral issue.

STAND UP FOR TAFE in 2019

For more information about the TAFE Community Alliance go to our website

www.tafecommunityalliance.org