



HOW THE NATIONAL VET AGREEMENTS HURT TAFE

WHAT ARE THE AGREEMENTS?

Two funding agreements between state and federal governments in 2012 have led to budget cuts for TAFE, higher fees for students and the growth of low quality private for profit providers.

The National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development is the Special Purpose Payment for the vocational education sector, and the National Partnership for Skills Reform was the mechanism by which the Commonwealth “rewards” states and territories for meeting certain requirements.

These requirements included:

- The implementation of a National Entitlement to training for Certificate I-III
- A requirement that states open access to government funding to private for-profit providers
- Liberalising restrictions on the VET FEE-HELP scheme.

In short, the Agreements required states to enact policies that fostered privatisation – a voucher system; contestable funding; and entrenching income contingent loans in the system.

PRIVATE PROVIDERS FAVOURED

Both the NASWD and the NP directly led to the exponential growth of private for-profit, low quality vocational education providers.

However, while private, for-profit providers cherry pick cheap to run courses at high student volumes, TAFE continues to do the “heavy lifting” running more expensive courses.

With less funding, TAFE continues to provide quality courses and maintain the public institutions our communities have relied on for generations.

With less government funding – TAFE suffers and so do students.

HOW THIS HURTS STUDENTS

The growth of private for-profit providers has left many students vulnerable to unscrupulous providers – leaving some with large debts and worthless qualifications.

Privatisation has also entrenched the concept of income contingent loans and a user pay system in vocational education – when not that long ago TAFE courses were available for a modest fee.

For those students at TAFE, they are seeing firsthand the effects of underfunding in these institutions – cuts to courses, fewer staff, and higher fees.

Get involved, visit www.stoptafecuts.com.au



IT'S TIME TO ACT

TAFE and vocational education are the lowest funded education sector with funding declining by more than 24% since 2008. At the same time fees have increased by 245% from \$4060 in 2009 to \$14,018 in 2015.

The National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development (NASWD) and the National Partnership for Skills Reform (NP) both expire at the end of June this year.

We need to lobby governments to make the renegotiation of these agreements, with extra funding for TAFE, a priority agenda item, and that the new agreements support the crucial role of TAFE in the vocational education sector.

It's vital that TAFE teachers, students, graduates and supporters get in touch with their Federal MP to let them know this issue is important to the community

WHAT SHOULD THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DO?

- Support the crucial and unique role of TAFE
- Real investment in public vocational education
- Guaranteed funding for TAFE

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

It is essential that the government hears from Stop TAFE Cuts supporters – teachers, students, graduates and community members.

- Join the campaign at www.stoptafecuts.com.au
- Like us on Facebook and Twitter
- Share this factsheet with colleagues and friends
- Call or visit your Federal MP ([read our "how to" fact sheet to get you started](#))

For more information and resources check out our website:

www.stoptafecuts.com.au

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