



## HOW TO CALL OR VISIT YOUR MP TO STAND UP FOR TAFE

### 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

### WHAT DO I DO?

Politicians now regularly screen and auto-delete many emails. It is far more valuable to call, send a personally written letter or meet with your Federal MP in person.

### HOW TO MAKE A CALL

- Call the Electorate office of your Federal MP. Details are available at [www.aph.gov.au](http://www.aph.gov.au)
- It is unlikely you will get to speak to your MP, but important you leave a clear message with the staff member who answers the phone
- Introduce yourself and let the staff member know where you live in the electorate
- Leave a clear, concise message. For example – *I am a TAFE teacher and I am concerned about the inaction in relation to the re-negotiation of the NASWD and the NP. I am also concerned about the lack of guaranteed funding for TAFE. I want my Federal MP to raise this with Simon Birmingham and Karen Andrews.*
- Be sure to ask for your MP to call you back.
- Be polite and courteous at all times
- If you're shy – call after hours and leave a message on their answering machine.

Get involved, visit [www.stoptafecuts.com.au](http://www.stoptafecuts.com.au)



### HOW TO MAKE A VISIT

- Call the Electorate office of your Federal MP. Details are available at [www.aph.gov.au](http://www.aph.gov.au)
- Introduce yourself and let the staff member know where you live in the electorate. Let them know you would like to meet with your Federal MP on the issue of TAFE funding.
- Politely answer any questions asked of you. It may help to have a short summary of what you want to discuss prepared. For example: *I am a TAFE student and I am concerned about the lack of guaranteed funding for TAFE. I want to talk to my MP about the National Agreements that are about to expire, and ask him/her to talk to the Minister about it.*
- Be polite but persistent about scheduling a meeting in the next few weeks.
- At the meeting be yourself, and tell your story
- Be polite, calm and on message
- If your MP asks you a question and you don't know the answer – tell them you will get back to them and follow up with a phone call or email
- Before your leave, do your best to get them to commit to speaking to the Minister and Assistant Minister

### A PERSONAL LETTER

- If it has to be written communication it must be a personal letter
- Write to the Electorate office of your Federal MP. Details are available at [www.aph.gov.au](http://www.aph.gov.au)
- Provide a return address to let them know you live in their electorate.
- Be brief – no more than 1 page
- Be yourself, and tell your story
- Explain things in your own words. Don't be tempted to copy and paste from the Internet. Explain why guaranteed TAFE funding is important to you
- Ask for them to speak to the Minister and Assistant Minister on your behalf
- Be polite and use calm language

### LET US KNOW!

Whether you called, visited or wrote - please let us know! Drop a quick email with all the details to [rscroggie@aeufederal.org.au](mailto:rscroggie@aeufederal.org.au). This helps us keep track of who's been lobbied.

### MORE INFO?

For more information and factsheets head to our website:

[www.stoptafecuts.com.au](http://www.stoptafecuts.com.au)

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