

# Stop TAFE Cuts

## What do the TAFE cuts mean?

### **TAFE course fees are going up**

Government funding for TAFE nationally has declined over the past ten years. If both expenditure per hour and TAFE's share of that expenditure had been maintained at even 2004 levels, TAFE's funding would have been about \$974m (or 18.9%) greater in 2009 than it actually was.

That makes a huge difference to TAFE's bottom line, forcing the cost of training up.

That in turn is driving up course fees – some TAFE qualifications now cost well in excess of \$10,000, putting TAFE out of the reach a many people in the community

### **Training quality is being undermined**

There are nearly 5000 private providers now delivering training across the country. More than half of these are publicly funded.

But even though thousands of these private providers receive public funds, there is no guarantee of quality in the training they provide. Our regulatory system cannot cope with the huge increase in providers.

There are many small, fly-by-night providers operating with no scrutiny at all. That can't be a good think for the students enrolled there.

### **Funding for training is not going where it is needed most**

As the private sector within TAFE grows, more and more public funding is being channelled into training with uncertain outcomes or quality. Worse still, often these courses are not in areas where we have the greatest skill shortages.

### **People who most need access to quality training are being turned away.**

Funding for students with disabilities has been cut. In Victoria, programmes for students who are hearing impaired have been closed in TAFE institutes.

Support for people accessing TAFE training in response to retrenchment or unemployment has been cut in Victoria.

Funding for TAFEs to assist local communities and individuals' access education and support has also been drastically cut.

### **TAFE is at the crossroads.**

It makes no sense to cut TAFE funding, or to turn vocational education into a private, for-profit business.

TAFEs need secure funding to continue their important role in training over one million Australians each year.

TAFE must remain affordable and accessible.