

Let's talk about TAFE

The TAFE Commission Board has set about consulting with students, teachers, and members of the community and industry, to find out what they want from TAFE. It is most important that community and educational members of the Alliance fill in the survey. We are also seeking a face-to-face consultation. The consultation closes on 12 April.

Go to <http://engage.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/tafe>

There are a number of questions but you don't have to answer them all. There are specific sections at the end for industry, students and staff.

In the questions you might like to consider marking the following areas and adding the following comments:

1. The first question is about the roles of TAFE. You might like to include roles that enable delivery of training across the state, giving choices through a local TAFE college and providing training for those with a disadvantage.

There is a point to be made in the comments sections about how well TAFE NSW has been carrying out these roles, but lack of funding and the uncertainty of the competitive training market have been making that more difficult.

2. The second question is about TAFE changing to remain relevant and competitive. In terms of such changes you might like to include the following priorities: investing in training facilities, and TAFE becoming more innovative and entrepreneurial.

Once again there is a point to be made about proper funding of TAFE so it can be competitive, but also governments supporting rather than undermining TAFE and its great teachers and support services. Funding TAFE teachers to have professional quality qualifications is also an important issue.

3. The next question is on Why choose TAFE. You might like to consider in your answers: recognised qualifications, quality of our teachers, respected name, provider I can trust, quality training, affordable, support services for students.

There are many additional factors, but you may want to emphasise again the funding for world-class facilities, professionally qualified teachers and great student support services. These could all be undermined through a competitive training market as proposed by 'Smart and Skilled NSW'.

The rest of the questions are for students, industry and staff. If you are a community member of the Alliance, you might like to point out that the community is a separate entity has been ignored.