

4th September 2018

Linda Simon
TAFE Community Alliance
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Dear Linda,

Thank you for your letter and your interest in the significant role TAFE NSW plays in our State.

The NSW Government is undertaking once-in-a-generation reforms to strengthen and modernise TAFE NSW and ensure it better meets the needs of students, the community and industry. These reforms have brought together 10 autonomous institutes, 12 online brands, 220 websites, 11 corporate offices, which were all competing against one another to win market share, into One TAFE.

One of the core objectives of the One TAFE modernisation is redirecting resources into frontline teaching by reducing administrative duplication and layers of management. This is occurring. This great organisation now has a strong focus on strengthening its overall position in the competitive vocational education and training market.

NCVER data does not specifically identify TAFE NSW enrolments. For NSW, the NCVER "TAFE" data includes all NSW residents enrolled in a TAFE, including border residents attending TAFE in Victoria and Queensland, as well as online enrolments with interstate TAFEs.

NCVER data actually shows that apprentice trade commencements in NSW increased by 4.0% in 2017 (from 21,700 to 22,575) compared to a 0.4% increase nationally. TAFE NSW provides training for approximately 80% of all NSW apprentices. More TAFE NSW students are studying apprenticeships, full qualifications and other quality courses. They are transitioning from short courses to full qualifications that will enhance their job prospects and lead to employment outcomes.

TAFE NSW and other government provider enrolments in Certificate III and Certificate IV qualifications have also increased, by 5.8% and 5.9% against the national trend. This contrasts with Victoria and Queensland, where the number of students enrolled in Certificate III qualifications has declined between 2013 and 2017.

TAFE NSW is a government agency, and so it is prudent with expenditure of its funds and has improved its systems to strengthen the management of public resources. There is no purchasing freeze on essential supplies in TAFE NSW.

This Government continues to support and invest in the future of TAFE NSW, the public provider of vocational education and training for our great State. This Government believes that and the people of NSW deserve an education and training system that is responsive and flexible to the needs of industry, and one that delivers the workforce of the future.

Yours sincerely



The Hon Pru Goward MP
Member for Goulburn