



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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AEU welcomes federal TAFE Inquiry announcement

AEU President Angelo Gavrielatos has today welcomed the announcement of a parliamentary Inquiry into TAFE.

“This is a much needed intervention by the federal parliament – TAFEs across Australia have suffered savage cuts over the past twelve months, right at the time when governments at all levels should be doing all they can to support Australians getting the qualifications they need”, Mr Gavrielatos said today.

“Over the past year, close to 3000 much-needed teaching jobs, and hundreds of courses in Victoria, NSW and Queensland TAFES have been cut.”

“TAFE qualifications underpin the Australian workforce – there are over 1.2 million students in TAFEs across the country, many in regional areas. We underestimate the importance of TAFE at our peril.”

“In regional Australia, TAFEs play an absolutely crucial role in preparing and re-skilling people for work. Yet Premier Napthine, representing a rural electorate, is presiding over cuts to the TAFE system that are forcing amalgamations and closures of many of Victoria’s regional institutes and small campuses.

“This is the first national inquiry into TAFE in many decades. It gives all the students, graduates and beneficiaries of the TAFE system the chance to remind government of the critical role TAFE plays in providing high quality, affordable vocational education.

“The AEU will be making a strong case to the Inquiry about the particular impact of policies which result in TAFEs effectively becoming privatised through state governments’ budget cuts,” Mr Gavrielatos concluded.

For further comment, Pat Forward, AEU Federal TAFE Secretary 0425743954