

Media Release

National TAFE Day 2016

TAFE Community Alliance says: TAFE delivers the education that can ensure skills, jobs and growth for all

The TAFE Community Alliance celebrates National TAFE Day 2016, and acknowledges the work of the teachers and educators that have made TAFE the leading quality provider of vocational education and training (VET) in Australia today.

“Celebrating the work of TAFE is critical in the lead up to the Federal elections,” said Linda Simon, one of the spokespeople for the Alliance. “As we talk to community and industry alike, we find people horrified at the undermining and defunding of TAFE. They value the work of TAFE and its teachers for over a hundred years and are appalled that governments have supported a market-based training system that has allowed the rorts from some ‘for-profit’ private providers.”

“Both Labor and the Greens have election policies that call for a restoration of funding to TAFE and a recognition of TAFE’s important role in both building a strong economy and in ensuring a chance for all Australians to gain skills for employment. They also call for various changes that will ensure Australian tax-payers do not continue to be ripped off millions of dollars by unscrupulous education providers. The Alliance acknowledges their attempts to ‘right this wrong’ before it is too late.”

“The Federal Coalition Government has been almost silent,” said Linda Simon, “consulting about changes to VET FEE-HELP, but not acknowledging that their policies will continue to destabilise the VET system and promote its poor standing in the global education community.”

“The Alliance is also concerned that the Minister for Skills in NSW will use the opportunity of National TAFE Day to announce changes that will further undermine and defund TAFE in NSW. We call on Minister Barilaro to support and fund TAFE NSW as the state government’s primary responsibility in vocational education and training.”

The TAFE Community Alliance has written to the major political parties asking them to:

- abandon the current failed VET market funding models and commit to funding the direct and indirect costs of TAFE as the public VET provider;
- place a cap on student fees and charges for any VET providers who want access to public funds; and
- institute a performance audit by the Australian National Audit Office into Commonwealth expenditure in VET, especially in relation to its policy effectiveness, administrative efficiency and whether it has delivered value for money to the Australian taxpayer.

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