

## **MEDIA RELEASE - Rebuild TAFE: restore TAFE funding**

Public funding must be redirected to restore the national TAFE system as a trusted VET provider. The continuing financial collapse of private training colleges must force the Government to abandon its failed experiment in privatizing vocational education and training (VET).

“With the collapse of *Careers Australia* and the recent Federal Court judgement on *Acquire Learning*: that it engaged in conduct that was unconscionable, made false and misleading representations and failed to comply with Australian Consumer Law, Simon Birmingham, Minister for Education and Training, must act to prevent the further deep erosion of public confidence in VET provision. With National TAFE Day around the corner on 13 June, there is an opportune time for such an announcement from the Government,” said Jozefa Sobski of the TAFE Community Alliance.

The litany of rorts and rip-offs by countless VET providers since 2015 – 387 or more have been removed from the list able to receive government payments under the VET Student Loan Scheme – is testimony to massive market failure. The public purse has been plundered and pillaged for three years. Hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars have been pocketed by unscrupulous private training providers.

The Minister is basking in college collapses while ignoring the decimation of TAFE caused by the so-called industry-led competitive training market.

Where do people enrol now with confidence to receive technical training or vocational education?

Apprenticeships and traineeships are in a continuing decline across the nation while skill shortages continue to grow. The NSW Business Chamber has assessed that in one state alone, there is a shortage of 54,000 skilled workers. (SMH 26 May, 2017)

“Mr Birmingham must explain to all Australians who will train the 300,000 apprentices over the next four years with the Skilling Australians fund announced in the Budget?” said Ms Sobski

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