

August 30, 2002

TO: House of Representatives Education and Training Committee

RE: Enquiry into Vocational Education in Schools.

With the demise of Technical Schools in the early 1990's there has been a lack of vocational education opportunities. This has no doubt contributed to the recent increases in participation in VET programs. We are a small independent secondary school with almost 300 secondary enrolments. This increase has been mirrored in our school, with 50% of our Year 10 students studying VET Small Business Practice in our school, with a local TAFE acting as our RTO. Another 10% are studying a variety of other VET programs at local TAFEs.

We had planned to become an RTO for courses run within the school, however due to changes to the AQTF it has meant that the delivery of VET programs within our school is uneconomic. Compliance to these guidelines will force us to continue to look to local TAFEs to act as RTOs for these courses or to merely send students to these institutions to complete their VET studies.

This will therefore restrict student access to VET programs and make completion of VET studies less convenient and more expensive.

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