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August 22, 2002

The Secretary
Standing Committee on Education Training
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA. ACT. 2600

Email: edt.rep@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a TAFE Teacher of Carpentry and Joinery I would like to put forward some comments on the resourcing and delivery of vocational education programs in Schools and current Teacher training for these programs.

I have been involved with the following :

Board of Education in writing Syllabus 6 in Construction
The STEP Program (training of HSC Teachers to teach construction)
Writing and assessing construction subjects for HSC "on line" and I am currently teaching TVET Year 12 students who are doing the HSC Construction at TAFE.
I have a very sound knowledge and very broad understanding of what is required in construction.

Some of the current practices that need to be addressed to my way of thinking are:

1. In the time slots of 1, 2 or 3 periods that HSC Teachers have allocated to them is simply, not enough time. We at TAFE however, have minimum four hours for our TVET students and 8 hours a day for our Trade Apprentices.
2. Class sizes must also be lowered to 15/16 students, similar to TAFE for Occupational, Health and Safety reasons and the need for the teacher to be able to demonstrate effectively.
3. I am also of the belief that five days training does not make a Construction Teacher. We can all teach from a book, but it is the years in an Apprenticeship and then employment experience in the Industry that allows you to quote on your experiences.

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Having been involved with the training of 15 groups so far, most of the Teachers are of the same opinion as myself. They have expressed that they would like more training to bring them closer to TAFE qualifications.

Having said all of the above, I wish to state that I support the introduction of VET in Schools and this is evident by involvement.

Thanking you for allowing me to make my comments known.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Beatus', written in a cursive style.

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