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Hello there,

I am writing to express my sincere concern and deep dismay at the decimation of TAFE in Victoria, and similar changes in SA. I am in Western Australia and am passionately opposed to any such changes to TAFE in this state. The TAFE system is the backbone of Australian skills, and is a fundamental public education service for this nation.

Increasing privatisation, or converting the current system to a "user pays" model may look like good economic sense in the short term, but will have a profound and lasting effect on Australia's economy over time. You only need to take a look at what happens in societies where social capital is eroded over time to see results like the riots in Britain, and the "community" response to Hurricane Katrina in the New Orleans Superdome.

When people know that their government has little investment in them they have nothing to lose- the TAFE cuts in Victoria and elsewhere are the thin edge of the wedge, leading to a "dog eat dog" social consciousness, which ultimately costs everyone in terms of family breakdown, increased crime and pressure on social services to remedy what should have been prevented by the existence of solid public services.

Sincerely,

Gay Taylor