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1. What difference has studying at TAFE made to your life or the community members that you advocate?

Working and studying at TAFE has allowed me to constantly upgrade my qualifications, maintain the currency of my professional approaches, participate in regular and ongoing PD, develop and increase my awareness of teaching & learning strategies, interact with a diversity of cultures, backgrounds and motivations, promote learning, encourage self-development and enhance employability skills.

2. What improvements and achievements including the employment prospects can you acknowledge personally, as a result of undertaking training at TAFE?

I have been able to maintain and improve my job status, thanks to the qualifications and PD which I have access to at TAFE. I have improved my job skills, increased my repertoire of lecturing strategies, and become more & more confident, efficient and capable in my job. I have achieved a number of qualifications relevant to my job, more readily accessible because available locally, and potentially transferable to other jobs.

3. What impact would it have if this opportunity was beyond your or your community's reach?

My chances of achieving all of the above mentioned improvements, opportunities and qualifications were only possible because of the local, accessible and flexible nature of TAFE. If this opportunity were lost, it would mean for myself and for the local community in general that achieving PD, qualifications and employability skills would become a much harder, more complicated and less accessible option, leading to less qualified community members, lower employment rates and a lesser quality standard of local workers.

The availability of the current local TAFE infrastructure is guaranteeing widespread skill sets, industry quals and higher employment levels among the community members, without necessarily having to access University education.

4. How do you think the funding cuts to TAFE will affect you and/or the community you advocate for?

Funding cuts may entail the loss of local courses (or at least that is my understanding of the current developments), on the basis of the degree of employability skills that they lead towards. I personally feel that this may be a "mislead" decision in some cases, as courses that may not be "viewed" as leading to employment, might actually have the potential to lead to the development of job-skills that are not as evident as in the case of other courses. For example, applied language courses may be seen as more of a personal development choice of study, but have actually in our local scenario (of Albany) produced a number of locally employed LOTE teachers, who have in some cases thus been encouraged, stimulated and driven to increase their employment skills by continuing to upgrade their qualifications with further tertiary study.