



From: Maha Abed
Sent: Thursday, 4 April 2013 2:08 PM
To: Committee, EE (REPS)
Subject: Stop TAFE Cuts

To whom it may concern,

I have been a librarian in the Victorian TAFE sector since 2002. I have taught many students over these years, from many backgrounds, studying in a variety of subject areas.

The proposed cuts to TAFE ignore a highly important factor: **every person has a different learning style.**

The general nature of the TAFE student is *tactile*. They're not *bookish* or *academic*, they just want to get in there and start "getting their hands dirty", so to speak.

So, cuts in the TAFE sector sees the start of an *educational divide*. Those who are not academically or higher education focused are missing out and ignored.

Since the cuts were made in Victoria by the former Premier Baillieu, I have witnessed a reduction in student enrolments at Swinburne. I'm sure this is mainly due to the cost of studying here, as opposed to studying with a private provider.

I have also become highly aware of the poor quality of education received through private providers. Peripheral support, such as counselling, library services, financial aid, etc. are not easily obtainable at smaller private providers – an *institution* such as a university or a TAFE has the infrastructure in place to meet the needs of students. They are not working on an *ad hoc* basis.

It saddens me to see the quality of the service we provide here deteriorate – we have less staff doing twice or three times the amount of work they used to. We have had departmental budget cuts, so access is casual staff and resources is even more difficult than it used to be.

It would be good to see TAFE continue to exist in the future of Australian education. To eliminate it would do our future generations and workforce more harm than good.

Sincerely,

Maha Abed

