



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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TAFE Students Celebrate or Commiserate?

“As employers, unions and community representatives sit down to a sumptuous meal, at Jupiter’s Casino, to celebrate the educational achievements of TAFE students at the annual Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) Training Awards Dinner, State and Territory Training Ministers may already have received a ‘cold shoulder’ from Dr Brendan Nelson, the Federal Minister for Education Science and Training” said Pat Forward, AEU Federal TAFE President.

“On Friday 21 November prior to the ANTA Training Awards Dinner, Education and Training Ministers from around Australia (MINCO), will meet to hear whether Dr Nelson has any new money to provide TAFE places for the 40,000 who missed out last year” (ABS Statistics, May, 2002).

“State Ministers should not sign up to a new ANTA Agreement for the next 3 years (2004-2006) without at least an additional \$180m for 2004 from the Commonwealth. This money is needed to reduce skills shortages, create education and training opportunities for the unemployed, youth at risk, and to provide career opportunities for thousand of Australians wanting to upgrade their skills and qualifications to keep pace with technological change”.

Pat Forward said today “ANTA has produced figures showing the future demand for TAFE courses is likely to be up to 5.2% so the Commonwealth needs to increase its offer to the states otherwise the TAFE waiting list will grow even further”.

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