



## ***Australian Education Union - Federal Office***

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### **MORE THAN 50,000 STUDENTS TURNED AWAY FROM TAFE**

TAFE teachers from around Australia will be meeting in Canberra on Tuesday and Wednesday, 30 and 31 March to highlight the plight of TAFE and TAFE students.

“More than 50,000 students throughout Australia are being turned away from TAFE colleges,” said Federal TAFE Secretary, Pat Forward. “The Howard government’s refusal to provide funding for TAFE to place these students is condemning them to unemployment.”

Earlier this year, discussions between the States and the Commonwealth over a new ANTA agreement broke down when the Commonwealth refused to meet its obligation to provide these funds for TAFE. For more than five successive years, the TAFE system has had to turn away more than 40,000 students annually. This year, in NSW alone, more than 23,700 students have already been turned away from TAFE.

“Students and communities in rural and regional Australia will be hardest hit,” said Ms Forward. “They have fewer choices than students in metropolitan areas and their communities suffer when these students are forced to leave.”

TAFE teachers from around Australia will be meeting with their parliamentary representatives over the next few days to lobby for additional funds for the TAFE system so that places can be found for these students,

On Tuesday night, in Old Parliament House, the AEU will host a roundtable discussion highlighting the parlous state of TAFE institutions around Australia. Jenny Macklin, Kerry Nettle, Lyn Allison, and speakers from Australian industry groups and the union movement will discuss TAFE funding.

**For further information, please contact:**

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