



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

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### **AEU welcomes widening of the TAFE debate**

TAFE teachers and educational staff have been urging all governments to recognise the need for additional funding for TAFE for over a decade now. We welcome the call by the TAFE Directors Australia (TDA), as part of their 10 point plan, for wider funding and increased support for TAFE, including a research and development role for TAFE.

The TDA reform agenda also recognises the need to use and extend a Youth Guarantee, part of AEU policy for some years, to support young people to undertake education or training beyond compulsory years of schooling. TDA proposes an extension of a Youth Guarantee to Indigenous communities and young people in rural and remote communities.

Dr Peter Kell will launch his report arising from the National TAFE Inquiry on Wednesday 18 October at 10.30 am in Parliament House Canberra. This extensive inquiry which travelled the country for some six weeks, and has been informed by over a hundred submissions from students, teachers, community and industry groups, has six major recommendations around positioning TAFE for the future and ensuring that it can meet the future vocational education and training needs of Australians.

The Inquiry spoke to groups in rural and regional Australia, and visited a number of Aboriginal communities. The recommendations are based on what these people had to say they wanted from TAFE in the future.

The National TAFE Inquiry recognises the great work that already occurs in TAFE today, but sets a platform for changes that will renew TAFE to address the future. The AEU welcomes the opportunity to work with TDA, and other groups to progress this discussion.

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