



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

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### **PRIVATISING TAFES WILL FUEL SKILLS SHORTAGE**

Students and their educational outcomes would suffer if the Federal Government implemented its plan to privatise TAFE, said the Australian Education Union today.

Federal Minister for Vocational and Further Education, Andrew Robb is reported today as saying his government is planning to implement a reform agenda that would divert public funds to private providers and impose funding penalties on TAFE institutes if state governments did not comply.

“The Federal Government’s plans are all about forcing their IR agenda on the TAFE sector and will not deliver better outcomes to students or employers seeking skilled workers,” said AEU Federal TAFE Secretary, Pat Forward.

“This is about getting more AWA’s and short contracts into TAFEs, at the expense of students and teachers.

“Minister Robb’s threat to fund TAFEs on student numbers rather than teaching hours shows how little he knows about vocational education and training. It is a sleight of hand that will reduce TAFEs flexibility and threaten the quality of courses and teaching resources for students.

“This is the opposite of what Australia needs to meet the skills challenges presented by today’s industries.

“TAFE institutes across the country already deliver a high proportion of their courses and programmes in the workplace, online, and through flexible training options. The real problem is that they are not funded adequately to meet Australia’s skills shortage,” said Ms. Forward.

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