



## Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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### **AEU CALLS ON ROBB TO CLARIFY FEDERAL TAFE FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Australian Education Union has called for more details on a plan announced by Federal Minister for Vocational and Further Education Andrew Robb to fund TAFE on the basis of student places rather than student hours.

“The Federal Government has reduced funding to the TAFE sector by nearly 26% over the last ten years,” said AEU Federal President Pat Byrne.

“Minister Robb’s announcement that the Government is looking to fund Vocational Education on a student place rather than student hours basis needs immediate clarification.

“Switching to such a funding model could significantly undermine the quality of current TAFE delivery and force TAFE institutes to push students through courses whether they were ready or not in order to gain additional funding.

“It also risks excluding State Governments from funding arrangements and could be the first step in introducing a HECS in TAFE.

“A HECS in TAFE would lead to more fees and charges for students as it has in universities, shifting the cost from Government to individual students.

“High fees are already discouraging students from undertaking TAFE courses and applying a HECS to TAFE will just worsen the 200,000 shortage of skilled workers Australia is already facing.”

“TAFEs are already able to provide flexible and responsive courses depending on the needs of their students and local demand.

“Tens of thousands of Australians have been turned away from TAFE due to lack of funding.

“TAFE should be well-funded to enable every Australian to gain a high quality vocational education.

“This will not happen under a user-pays, HECS-style funding system.

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