



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

Ground Floor, 120 Clarendon Street, Southbank, Victoria, 3006  
Phone : +61 (0)3 9693 1800 Fax : +61 (0)3 9693 1805  
Email : [aeu@aeufederal.org.au](mailto:aeu@aeufederal.org.au) Website : [www.aeufederal.org.au](http://www.aeufederal.org.au)

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### **GUARANTEE FUNDING FOR TAFE**

The Australian Education Union is calling on the Federal Government to abandon changes to TAFE funding that would undermine quality and push the burden of cost onto students.

The call comes with the release of new polling conducted for the Australian Education Union that shows 93% of Australians agree that providing extra funding to TAFE is essential to meet the skills crisis and ensure all Australians have access to low-cost training and education.

AEU Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos said that the Federal Government's proposal to force TAFE to compete with low-quality private training facilities for all funding would undermine the TAFE systems ability to provide community services like libraries and quality low-cost training.

"95% of Australians agree that a well-funded TAFE system is essential to ensure every Australian has the opportunity to access quality vocational and further education.

"TAFE providers need to have guaranteed funding in order to be able to provide affordable training for all Australians.

"If these changes go ahead we will see quality decline and TAFEs will be forced to increase student fees, worsening the skills crisis.

"Recent global events show how dangerous it is to hand crucial parts of the economy like education and training over to an uncontrolled market.

"Competition for scarce government resources and an agenda which seeks to shift the costs of education and training onto individuals will not deliver us a skilled workforce for today's economy.

"We call on the Federal Government to lead a vigorous consultation process with all stakeholders about the future of the TAFE and VET system."

"An online poll of 1000 people conducted in September by Your Source on behalf of Essential Research found:

80% agree that increasing TAFE student fees will limit the access to skills training and only make the skills crisis worse

64% disagree that TAFE Students should pay HECS-style fees just like University students

72% agree introducing a HECS-style scheme for TAFE will turn people away from training and further education."

#### **For further information, please contact:**

Angelo Gavrielatos  
Federal President  
0488 012 045

Elisha Johnson  
Media  
0432 828 004