



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

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### **Action Needed Over Private College Failures**

The Australian Education Union said today that the collapse of three more private training colleges and a school in Sydney and Melbourne underlined the need for tougher industry regulation and an increased number of TAFE places.

AEU Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos said 3,000 students had been left in limbo by the collapse of the Global Campus Management Group.

The group runs a school and a group of training colleges including the Meridian International Hotel School and the International Design School delivering training and high school education.

“The fact is that TAFE is the only one that can deliver a guaranteed, high quality education to all students,” Mr Gavrielatos said.

“There are a growing number of private colleges collapsing and it’s the students who pay the price.”

“There is no doubt many of these problems are due to the unchecked privatisation of this sector. The scrutiny of new and existing operators has not been adequate to ensure that they are financially viable and delivering a quality education to international and domestic students.

“What is needed is a new set of tough national standards that will reduce the risk for students and teachers working in these colleges.

“Tougher standards should include minimum teaching qualifications for staff and a requirement for providers to demonstrate their financial viability. Colleges should only be allowed to operate if they teach domestic and international students and have a track record in providing education.

Mr Gavrielatos said the Federal and state governments should ensure that TAFE places were available to cater for students whose colleges had closed.

“We need to ensure that the insurance scheme for private providers covers the cost of TAFE places for any displaced students.”

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