



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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Good News Needed on National TAFE Day

The Australian Education Union said National TAFE Day (Wednesday, 28 October) was a day to celebrate the achievements of one of Australia's great institutions and acknowledge the need to invest more in it.

AEU Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos said few countries could boast a vocational training and education system like TAFE that delivers world-class education to more than 1.6 million students a year.

"TAFE is delivering over 12,000 courses to students every year," Mr Gavrielatos said.

"It is one of the great Australian success stories. TAFE is where all Australians can go to get the high quality education and training they need for secure well-paid jobs.

"Now more than ever, TAFE has a critical role to play in delivering training and education as Australia recovers from the economic crisis.

"Australia's future growth and competitiveness is dependent on a highly skilled workforce.

"Yet there has been a steady decline in the percentage of GDP spent on public vocational education and training in the last decade and the latest figures show the expenditure per student hour fell by nearly 9 per cent between 2003 and 2007.

"There has also been a decline in the number of students completing diploma courses and the number completing advanced diploma courses remained static between 2001 and 2007 according to Skills Australia.

"We must invest more in training for our future. It is only TAFE that delivers guaranteed quality training.

"It would be good on this day for all governments to acknowledge that more investment in TAFE is needed."

A National TAFE Day reception will be held in Parliament House in Canberra tonight at 6.30pm.

Education Minister Julia Gillard and Mr Gavrielatos will speak at that function.

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