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SA Launch of Campaign for Better TAFE Funding

The South Australian launch of a new campaign for increased TAFE funding will take place today in Adelaide.

The launch comes as new figures show how cuts in funding and resources are forcing TAFEs to turn away students across the state.

The Australian Education Union said a survey of teachers and managers showed rising demand across the state for the quality training and education only TAFE can provide.

AEU Federal TAFE Secretary, Pat Forward said more than half the surveyed teachers said they had been forced to turn away students from their institute in the last two years. The figure was even higher in regional SA at 65 per cent.

“At the same time over 70 per cent of teachers reported the overall budget for their department had fallen,” Ms Forward said.

“Thousands of people in South Australia are missing out every year on the quality training and education they need because our TAFEs are under-resourced.

“This training shortfall is a serious impediment to reducing unemployment, tackling skills shortages, meeting future workforce demand and ensuring all South Australians can get the skills and education they need to get well-paid, secure jobs.”

Ms Forward said new research conducted by the Centre for the Economics of Education and Training (CEET) at Monash University showed TAFE funding per student hour in South Australia had fallen by 16 per cent since 2003.

“The research shows we need to spend an additional \$200 million a year until 2020 to meet new targets for increasing the proportion of the population with higher level qualifications,” she said.

“The Federal Government needs to lead the way in increasing funding, but the SA Government also must start investing more in the quality training and education only TAFE can provide.”

MEDIA NOTE

The SA launch of the TAFE campaign will take place at **12 noon** at the TAFE Regency Campus, 137 Days Road, Regency Park. (*Enter off Days Road and proceed to the main entrance of Block B just opposite the visitors parking*).

The results of the survey of TAFE teachers in SA are available at:
<http://www.aeufederal.org.au/Tafe/TAFESurvey/SA.pdf>

The CEET report is available at:
<http://www.aeufederal.org.au/Publications/2010/CEETreport2010.pdf>

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