

AEU State of our TAFEs Survey Report

This report summarises the results of the Australian Education Union State of our TAFEs online survey conducted by the Federal Office of the AEU.

The survey was open for three weeks between Monday 8 February and Monday 1 March 2010.

1. Respondents

- The survey was completed by 2,691 people working in TAFE.
- 93% of respondents were teachers and 7% managers.

2. Demand for Training and Education

- 46% of respondents said they were aware of student waiting lists in their department or TAFE.
- The areas where waiting lists were highest were engineering and related technologies (21%), education (17%) and language, literacy and numeracy (16%).
- 56% of respondents said student demand in their area had increased in the last two years.
- 58% of respondents said they had been forced to turn students away in the last two years.
- The primary reasons why students were turned away (respondents could choose more than one reason) were lack of places (70%), insufficient students (37%) and resources (29%).
- The main areas where students were turned away were engineering (20%), education and literacy and numeracy (both 13%).

3. Resources and Workloads

- 53% of respondents said that the overall budget in their department had decreased in the last two years.
- 49% of respondents said class sizes had increased in the last two years.
- 84% of respondents said that their workload had increased in the last two years.
- Respondents said that if additional resources were made available the highest priorities should be computers and technology (58%), trade equipment (50%), technical and admin support (49%) and classrooms (46%).

4. Industry Demand

- 70% of respondents said that their TAFE did not have the capacity to meet industry needs, particularly in the local community.

1. Respondents

2,691 TAFE practitioners responded to the survey, 93% of whom were involved in the delivery of programmes.

Main position

	Aust
Workplace Assessor	1.5%
Tutor	0.8%
Teacher	76.8%
Advanced Skills Teacher	13.9%
Manager	6.9%

Length of employment at current workplace

	Aust
0 – 12 mths	2.6%
1 – 2 years	5%
2 – 5 years	18.8%
5 – 10 years	20.6%
10 years +	53%

2. Demand for Training and Education

Are you aware of any student waiting lists in the institute/department?

(2686 responded)

	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Aust
Yes	21.9%	62.9%	45.5%	58.7%	43.9%	40.2%	61.7%	39.4%	45.9%
No	78.1%	37.1%	54.5%	41.3%	56.1%	59.8%	38.3%	60.6%	54.1%

**Indicate industry areas affected. Choose any that apply.
(State, territory and national)**

(1,264 responded)

	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Aust
Natural and physical sciences	0%	1.5%	0%	0%	2%	4%	2.8%	3.2%	1.9%
Information technology	5.9%	14.8%	22.2%	9.9%	11.5%	14.7%	8.1%	10.5%	11.9%
Engineering and related technologies	0%	17.3%	11.1%	24.6%	25.7%	18.7%	21.8%	22.6%	20.6%
Architecture and building	17.6%	7.5%	0%	3.7%	10.1%	5.3%	14.5%	4%	8.2%
Agriculture, environmental and related	5.9%	4.6%	11.1%	2.6%	6.1%	8%	2.8%	0.8%	4%
Health	11.8%	7.5%	0%	8.4%	23.6%	8%	12.1%	11.3%	10.8%
Education	5.9%	18.8%	22.2%	23%	11.5%	12%	16.5%	15.3%	17.2%
Creative arts	5.9%	8.2%	11.1%	6.8%	6.1%	10.7%	4.8%	5.6%	7%
Food, hospitality and personal services	11.8%	7.5%	0%	4.2%	9.5%	10.7%	7.3%	3.2%	7%
Mixed field	5.9%	1.3%	11.1%	0.5%	2%	8%	2.8%	0%	2%
Language, literacy and numeracy	17.6%	15.9%	33.3%	17.3%	18.9%	13.3%	10.5%	18.5%	15.7%
Further education and liberal arts	0%	4.6%	0%	4.2%	2%	0%	4.8%	2.4%	3.7%
Management and commerce	11.8%	7.7%	0%	9.9%	5.4%	8%	4%	8.9%	7.25%
Society and culture	0%	3.5%	0%	1%	1.4%	1.3%	3.6%	1.6%	2.5%
Other	0%	10.6%	11.1%	8.4%	8.1%	8%	8.5%	11.3%	9.3%

In the last two years, has student demand in your industry area (choose one of the following):

(2,686 responded)

	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Aust
Increased	56.2%	57.6%	81.8%	57%	55.2%	58.7%	46.8%	65.3%	55.8%
Decreased	6.8%	9.3%	4.5%	14.8%	9.2%	9.2%	15.8%	7.4%	11.4%
Same	35.6%	28.9%	13.6%	23.2%	29.8%	29.9%	29.7%	23.9%	27.8%
Don't know	1.4%	4.2%	0%	5.1%	5.8%	2.2%	7.6%	3.4%	5%

Have you had to turn away potential students from the college in the last two years?

(2686 responded)

	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Aust
Yes	23.3%	76%	50%	53.2%	57.4%	53.8%	46.7%	55.9%	57.7%
No	76.7%	24%	50%	46.8%	42.6%	46.2%	53.3%	44.1%	42.3%

If yes, what were the primary reasons? (Could nominate more than one)

(1560 responded)

	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Aust
Lack of a place	72.2%	77.2%	38.5%	59.9%	69.5%	50.5%	67.6%	79.2%	69.9%
Resources	33.3%	29.5%	46.2%	33.5%	28.3%	29.3	27.9%	22.6%	29.1%
Student support	0%	3.9%	0%	8.7%	4.8%	6.1%	5.2%	4.8%	5.1%
Lack of qualified teachers	16.7%	15.7%	30.8%	24.8%	14.4%	13.1%	20.3%	14.9%	17.7%
Insufficient students	55.6%	36.3%	38.5%	44.6%	38.5%	20.2%	36.9%	35.1%	37.1%
Cost	5.6%	20.3%	15.4%	18.6%	20.9%	34.3%	23.4%	4.8%	19.7%

If yes, what were the main industry areas in which you had to turn away students?

(1,563 responded)

	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Aust
Natural and physical sciences	0%	1.1%	0%	1.2%	1.6	1.9%	2.7%	1.2%	1.5%
Information technology	11.8%	15.7%	15.4%	6.9%	6.4%	9.7%	7.2%	9.8%	10.6%
Engineering and related technologies	17.6%	15.9%	23.1%	25.7%	21.3%	28.2%	18.6%	24.4%	20.3%
Architecture and building	5.9%	7.6%	0%	5.7%	8.5%	4.9%	13.7%	5.5%	8.1%
Agriculture, environmental and related	11.8%	4.2%	7.7%	4.1%	5.3%	11.7%	3.4%	4.3%	4.8%
Health	17.6%	5.7%	0%	4.9%	19.1%	6.8%	10.7%	8.5%	8.6%
Education	5.9%	15.1%	7.7%	15.5%	5.3%	10.7%	12%	12.8%	12.7%
Creative Arts	11.8%	8.1%	0%	4.5%	9%	8.7%	5.5%	6.1%	7%
Food, hospitality and personal services	0%	5%	0%	6.1%	8%	11.7%	6.5%	4.3%	6.1%
Mixed field	5.9%	2.2%	7.7%	1.2%	2.1%	5.8%	2.7%	1.2%	2.4%
Language, literacy and numeracy	5.9	12.2%	15.4%	15.9%	18.1%	6.8%	9.6%	12.8%	12.7%
Further education and liberal arts	0%	4.4%	0%	2.4%	1.6%	0%	4.8%	0.6%	10%
Management and commerce	5. %	8.5%	15.4%	12.2%	7.4%	5.8%	6.5%	11%	8.7%
Society and culture	0%	3.7%	0%	1.6%	3.2%	2.9%	4.5%	3.7%	3.3%
Other	0%	12.5%	15.4%	8.6%	9%	5.8%	10%	7.9%	10%

3. Resources and Workloads

Has the overall budget for your department in the last two years:

(2,686 responded)

	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Aust
Increased	16.4%	3.1%	27.3%	5.1%	0.9%	4.9%	6.9%	8.4%	5.3%
Decreased	20.5%	62.4%	22.7%	49.9%	71.8%	74.5%	41%	32%	52.5%
Same	35.6%	18.8%	27.3%	20.1%	12.9%	11.4%	19.5%	24.2%	19.1%
Don't know	27.4%	15.7%	22.7%	24.9%	14.4%	9.2%	32.5%	35.4%	23.1%

In your classroom delivery area, have class sizes over the last two years:

(2,686 responded)

	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Aust
Increased	43.8%	48%	50%	54.5%	52.1%	40.2%	47.7%	50.8%	49.2%
Decreased	5.5%	7.4%	0%	10.6%	8%	12%	9.5%	6.1%	8.6%
Same	50.7%	41.9%	50%	32.2%	38%	42.4%	40.1%	41.1%	39.6%
Don't know	0%	2.7%	0%	2.6%	1.8%	5.4%	2.7%	2%	2.6%

Since the start of 2008, has your workload:

(2,686 responded)

	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Aust
Increased	76.7%	88.5%	68.2%	85.2%	82.8%	80.4%	80.6%	82.2%	83.7%
Decreased	1.4%	1.5%	4.5%	2%	0.9%	3.8%	2.3%	1%	1.8%
Same	21.9%	9.4%	27.3%	11.9%	15.3%	15.8%	15.8%	16.2%	13.7%
Don't know	0%	0.6%	0%	0.9%	0.9%	0%	1.3%	0.7%	0.8%

How would you prioritise the use of additional funds for teaching and learning at your institute?

(2,686 responded)

	High	Medium	Low
Classrooms	46%	34.9%	19.1%
Trade equipment	50.2%	31.4%	18.5%
Library/learning centre	24.7%	53.7%	21.5%
Computers and technology	57.7%	31.7%	10.6%
Support for workplace delivery	43.1%	34.3%	22.6%
Studio equipment	17.1%	36.5%	46.3%
Technical and admin support	49.4%	35.3%	15.3%

4. Industry Demand

Does the institute have the capacity to meet industry needs, particularly in the local community?

(2,686 responded)

	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Aust
Yes	53.4%	24.6%	31.8%	30.5%	26.1%	29.9%	34.6%	32%	30.1%
No	46.6%	75.4%	68.2%	69.5%	73.9%	70.1%	65.4%	68%	69.9%