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Authorised by AEU Federal TAFE Secretary Pat Forward 123 Clarendon Street, Southbank 3006

“TAFE is recognised as one of the highest quality providers of training and education anywhere in the world, and our prosperity as a nation is directly linked to it.”

— AEU president,
 Angelo Gavrielatos

Members who would like more information on the campaign and want to get involved can visit www.aeufederal.org.au

THE AEU’s campaign for more funding is underway, with the release of two new reports revealing the extent of the under-funding of TAFE and its impact on staff and the delivery of training and education.

The first report, based on the findings of a nationwide survey of over 2,600 TAFE staff, shows a sector in crisis with rising workloads and unmet student demand and falling funding levels.

In total 84 per cent of staff said their workload had risen in the last two years while 58 per cent said they had been forced to turn away students because of a lack of places. (*See article opposite*).

The second report by the Centre for the Economics of Education and Training (CEET) at Monash University, showed a decline in government investment in VET of 22.3% since 1997, and 11.9% since 2003.

Meeting new COAG targets for higher qualifications in the Australian community would require an additional investment of around \$200 million a year until 2020, the report found. (*See article page 8*)

The two reports provide crucial evidence for the new *Invest in Quality/Invest in TAFE* campaign for better funding.

AEU president Angelo Gavrielatos said it was clear from the reports TAFE teachers were being required to do more with less and the lack of resources was having a detrimental impact on the provision of education and training across the country.

“TAFE is recognised as one of the highest quality providers of training and education anywhere in the world, and our prosperity as a nation is directly linked to it,” he said.

“Yet TAFEs are unable to meet the growing demand from students or industry because they are so starved of funds.”

TAFE teachers will take the funding campaign to TAFE institutes around the country throughout April and May in the lead up to the Federal Budget.

The campaign will focus on lobbying and educating the community about the need for increased investment in the sector.

AEU TAFE federal secretary Pat Forward said the May budget was the perfect time for the Federal Government to begin to turnaround the funding situation and to start to invest the money needed to meet the ambitious COAG targets.

“Given that TAFE delivers almost 90 per cent of VET, the government and Australian society need a well resourced TAFE system to deliver on the government targets,” she said.

While all governments must share responsibility for the increased investment in TAFE, Mr Gavrielatos said it was up to the Federal Government to take a leadership role.

“The federal government must show greater leadership. As the Deputy Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, has pointed out, some of the things that will not be possible without TAFE in the next decade include ‘the national broadband network, cleaner power generation, hybrid and electric vehicles, more efficient houses and buildings, and capturing carbon’,” he said.

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AEU STATE OF OUR TAFE_s SURVEY



The first ever national survey of staff working in TAFE shows that teachers across the country are struggling to cope with higher workloads and reduced resources.

A TOTAL of 2,691 TAFE members across the country completed the survey which was open between Monday February 8 and Monday March 1.

The key findings around student demand for training and education were:

- 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%)
- 57% 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
- 70% of respondents said that their TAFE did not have the capacity to meet industry needs, particularly in the local communities

But while demand for quality training continues to rise teachers are doing more with less.

Over half the respondents said their budget had decreased in the last two years and 84 per cent said their workload had increased over the same period. Just

under half (49 per cent) said class sizes had increased.

If new money was available teachers said the highest priorities should be computers and technology (58%), trade equipment (50%), technical and admin support (49%) and classrooms (46%).

AEU federal TAFE secretary Pat Forward said the results of first national TAFE survey confirmed what members had been saying for many years.

"For too long we have had a situation where teachers have faced rising workloads and declining resources," she said.

"It is a testament to the commitment of teachers that they have continued to deliver high quality training and education in such a difficult environment.

"But we simply cannot go on starving TAFE_s of the resources which are so desperately required.

"Australians know only a high quality public provider can ensure people across the country can get the training and education they need. But we must make a greater effort to inform people of the state of TAFE funding and enlist their support in addressing this problem." ♦

To read the full survey and see what members said visit www.aeufederal.org.au

‘We could deliver a range of courses and increase our numbers further if we had better technology resources & facilities’ — TAFE teacher

TAFE staff survey results at a glance

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

Aust	
Increased	55.8%
Decreased	11.4%
Same	27.8%
Don't know	5%

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

Aust	
Yes	57.7%
No	42.3%

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

Aust	
Increased	5.3%
Decreased	52.5%
Same	19.1%
Don't know	23.1%

Since the start of 2008, has your workload:

Aust	
Increased	83.7%
Decreased	1.8%
Same	13.7%
Don't know	0.8%

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

	HIGH PRIORITY	MEDIUM PRIORITY	LOW PRIORITY
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%