

# The Howard Government does not provide enough money for TAFE



## THIS MEANS

- more than 50,000 people will be turned away from TAFE this year;
- your education and training will suffer;
- Australia will continue to experience skills shortages in a number of key industries;
- student fees and charges will continue to rise; and
- the threat to introduce HECS style fees to TAFE remains.

Authorised by P. Forward, AEU Federal TAFE Secretary, 120 Clarendon Street, Southbank VIC 3006





**Pat Forward**  
**Federal TAFE Secretary**

## ...in the Federal Election

At the end of 2002, there were 354,000 TAFE students aged between 15 and 19 years, and 274,000 aged between 20 and 24 years. A significant number of these students will be voting in the forthcoming Federal Election, and for many, it will be the first time they vote. On 22 June, the Australian Education Union launched a campaign aimed at those TAFE students who will be eligible to vote for the first time in this Federal Election.

The 'Enrol to Vote' has a dual focus, however. Leaflets, posters and stickers urge students to enrol to vote — but they also urge students to Vote 1 for TAFE when they are voting. The campaign material emphasises the under-funding of the TAFE system nationally, particularly since the Howard government was first elected in 1996. It also highlights the connection between TAFE and the capacity of the country to provide current skills for industry at a time when a number of key industries are experiencing skill shortages.

The campaign has a positive focus. TAFE is held in high regard by the

community and by industry, and the funding shortages which have undermined it over the past few years have been in large part hidden from the Australian community. This is partly due to the sterling efforts of TAFE teachers and other workers in TAFE who have struggled to continue to provide quality vocational education and training. Now that an estimated 50,000 students will be denied the opportunity to study at TAFE this year, the impacts of the Howard government's funding cuts are increasingly obvious.

Once an election is actually called, there will be a very limited amount of time during which people will consider how to vote. It is critically important to give those young people whose future is being undermined so starkly by Howard's policies the opportunity to have a say at the next election.

The 'Vote 1 for TAFE' theme has also been adopted for the Federal campaign materials, which can be found on the TAFE page of the Federal AEU website at [www.aeufederal.org.au](http://www.aeufederal.org.au)

### Latest TAFE campaign materials:

<http://www.aeufederal.org.au/Tafe/index2.html>

- Support for TAFE leaflet
- Briefing Notes for Politicians
- Summary of AEU Alternative ANTA Agreement (2004–2006)
- 2004 Funding: Update
- AEU Charter for Public Education (May 2004)
- The AEU Guide to Lobbying (the do's and don'ts of successful lobbying)
- AEU media releases



## IN THE FEDERAL ELECTION