

CAMPAIGNING for the future of TAFE



THE future of TAFE is set to be determined in the next 12 months with fears that the Federal Government will try and use a new funding deal to deliver far greater subsidies to private providers.

A key proposal in the recent federal budget was for a new National Partnership for reform of the VET system. Following the budget, Minister Evans announced that the Australian Government would offer an additional \$1.75 billion to the States if they "sign up to a more ambitious reform of the performance and quality of their respective public training systems".

Exactly what is being proposed is not yet clear but senior bureaucrats and private providers are pushing for the reforms to include a significant shift of funding away from TAFE and towards private providers.

In response to these concerns the AEU is stepping up its national *Invest in Quality, Invest in TAFE* campaign.

Pat Forward, Federal TAFE Secretary said, "This is the deal which will decide the future of TAFE. We need greater investment, not less. We know that Australians value their public TAFE systems — we must build support for

“This is the deal which will decide the future of TAFE. We know that Australians value their public TAFE systems – we must build support for the campaign from around the nation.”

the campaign from around the nation.”

As *The Australian TAFE Teacher* goes to press, the Federal Government is preparing to negotiate with Premiers and Chief Ministers at COAG. Once COAG has finalised a decision

there will be negotiations between the states and territories leading up to the signing up of a new agreement, including the new partnership in July 2012.

While the decision made at COAG will be critical, we will have a full year before the current funding agreement expires and the new one comes into place to lobby politicians. We must use this time to let them know how valuable TAFE is and how important it is to invest in the TAFE system.

The Victorian experiment demonstrates what a rolled gold disaster privatisation is. As private providers in that state take advantage of easy access to public funds, there remain ongoing and serious concerns about the regulatory environment and protections for students enrolled in private providers. ❖

Find out more about
what you can do to
support the
Invest in Quality,
Invest in TAFE campaign
on the AEU website
[www.aeufederal.org.
au/Tafe/InvQual.html](http://www.aeufederal.org.au/Tafe/InvQual.html)

Economics for Business 4th Edition

Ian Fraser, John Gionea & Simon Fraser

Bring a challenging subject to life with *Economics for Business* 4th Edition.

- Ideal for students of Advanced Diploma of Accounting in the FNS10 Financial Services Training Package
- Updated coverage of contemporary issues
- New Australian and international case studies help place economic concepts in context
- Accessible and engaging layout and writing style for your VET students

