

SUBSTANTIVE DECISIONS

2006 NATIONAL TAFE COUNCIL AGM

TAFE ATSIEC

1. That the NTC work toward ensuring that all Branches and Associated Bodies are represented on the TAFE ATSIEC.
2. That the NTC encourage Branches and Associated Bodies to campaign to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teachers employed in the TAFE system.
3. That the TAFE/ATSIEC report and recommendations be brought forward to a more appropriate place in the agenda.

respective Ministers to support the inclusion of a mandatory unit of Aboriginal Education Studies in the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.

NCVER

1. National TAFE Council AGM supports an independent research facility within Australia to continue to undertake research in vocational education and training. This AGM urges Branches and Associated Bodies to ensure their full participation in the current review of NCVER, through forums and submissions, and to focus on the need for the conduct and publication of research and statistics that are valid, reliable, independent and available equally to all stakeholders.

EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL

1. National TAFE Council AGM requests the AEU Federal Office and the Federal Secretary to work within EI to ensure that there is a specific group representing vocational education and training, and the interests of VET educationalists and students. This group would organise forums and coordinate communication within EI, as is the case with Higher Education.

SKILLS FORMATION WORKSHOP

1. That the NTC recommend to NTC Executive the development of strategies that will advance and promote TAFE teaching as a profession requiring significant and important underpinnings in pedagogy and education as well as a strong industry base.

These strategies need to be developed as a defence against the ideological attacks that seek to de-professionalise teaching and erode the status of TAFE teachers.

EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT WORKCHOICES BUT WERE TOO DEPRESSED TO ASK.....

1. That the AEU (TAFE) AGM 2006 strongly reaffirms commitment to the 2005 Industrial Relations Strategy resolution of AEU Federal Conference, namely, the AEU will be prepared to support a coordinated ACTU plan in the event that mass action or civil disobedience is necessary to protect the rights of workers.

Further, in light of the passage of the WorkChoices legislation and the Skilling Australia's Workforce Act, which constitutes a serious attack on the industrial rights of TAFE employees and the union movement, the AEU TAFE AGM supports the continued development of a strategic response in concert with the wider union movement as a matter of the highest priority.

INVOLVEMENT IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS

1. That TAFE activists be encouraged to become involved in professional organisations eg WAVE in an effort to influence the Federal Government reform agenda.

NEW FEDERAL IR LEGISLATION

1. That this National TAFE Council AGM calls on those State Education Ministers who have not taken legislative steps to protect TAFE teachers from new Federal IR Legislation and to do so as soon as possible.
2. It is expected that the worst impact of the Federal Government's Industrial Relations agenda will be felt by the most vulnerable workers particularly those casually employed.

In light of the high rate of casualisation which currently exists nationally within TAFE it is therefore imperative that the decision (19.6) from the 2005 AEU National TAFE Council AGM

"That Federal AEU establish a Casual Special Interest Group"

be implemented.

To this end, the Federal National TAFE Council AGM recommends that the AEU establish a communication network of casually employed TAFE teacher contacts for each State and Territory to actively share information, strategies and updates on casual teacher issues. Each State/Territory contact will be responsible for ensuring this communication is circulated within their own State/Territory Branches and Associated Bodies by whatever means, and at whatever level, deemed appropriate by their State/Territory Branch.

BEYOND SURVIVAL: LEARNING FROM THE NEW ZEALAND EXPERIENCE

1. The National TAFE Council AGM totally rejects the Howard Government's Skilling Australia's Workforce, the Welfare to Work, the WorkChoices and Anti-Terrorism Legislation. This is an ideologically driven social agenda which is an attack on the Australian community.

Learning from the New Zealand experience, the AEU will fight until we win. It will also fight to preserve the public belief in working people's rights, collective strength and democratic communities.

This AGM declares therefore that 2006 is the year we will intensify our fight. We will focus on the following courses of action:

- a commitment to work more collectively with other unions because this is a fight to protect the entire labour movement
- a commitment to ensure the full understanding and engagement of our members and potential members
- a commitment to consider all actions to achieve our aim.

The National TAFE Council recommends that the AEU Branches and Associated Bodies commit to consultation and collaboration in this campaign through 2006 and beyond.

We call on all education workers to recognise their role as leaders in evoking all Australians' social conscience that underpins a decent Australian society.

CAMPAIGNING

1. That the AEU TAFE Division further investigate and promote linking with other groups (eg unemployed, Indigenous groups, women's groups, migrant groups, church groups, NGO Welfare Agencies) to actively campaign and develop strategies (eg TAFE representatives speaking at meetings, join Regional Skills Shortage Task Forces; inform industry groups, such as the National Farmers' Federation), to challenge the current Howard Government's Industrial Relations changes, especially the WorkChoices Act. This could be developed in conjunction with Labour Councils.
2. That AEU Branches and Associated Bodies be encouraged to establish Campaign Action Groups (CAGs) amongst members.

Members of these CAGs would be asked to lobby politicians, send letters to local newspapers and be available to liaise with and speak to other local organisations, eg, church groups, NGOs, Indigenous groups, NESB groups, women's groups, employer bodies and other unions.

They would also seek out 'horror stories' on the implementation of WorkChoices from amongst the TAFE student population. These stories could then be passed on to the relevant union locally for exposure in the media.

3. That the AEU TAFE Division will investigate strategies encouraging and assisting the development of TAFE student action groups across Australia.

The investigation will develop links with community services teachers or the equivalent across Australia to suggest using the creation of TAFE student action groups as part of their community development and advocacy programs and to encourage young people to enrol to vote.

The strategies will include the development of links with local student groups to assist in exposing the real impacts of the Federal Government's WorkChoices Act on Australian workers with particular reference to young Australians

4. That the National TAFE Council supports the strategy of campaigning in targetted Federal electorates and/or the Senate. The National TAFE Council AGM believes that such activities are best undertaken in conjunction with other unions and a wide range of community groups.

The AEU TAFE Division encourages members of the AEU to be involved in the establishment and operation of such networks through their Branches and Associated Bodies. This may best be achieved by discussions in the first instance with activists from another union or through local Labour Councils where they exist.

5. National TAFE Council AGM recommends that the AEU look to establishing and supporting a network of regional union groups to assist in the dissemination of information and co-ordination of campaigning.
6. That the National TAFE Council AGM recommends as part of the campaign against the Howard Government's Workchoices Act, the AEU and its Branches and Associated Bodies organise a campaign to contact retired teachers, to identify those prepared to join direct action groups to work towards highlighting social and industrial injustice, and to work towards ultimately defeating the Coalition government.

That the AEU and its Branches and Associated Bodies be asked to either set up and organise direct action groups for this purpose, or work with suitable established direct action groups.

This National TAFE Council AGM requests that its Branches and Associated Bodies facilitate such a campaign to ensure the active involvement of retired TAFE teachers.

EDUCATION IN CORRECTIONAL ENVIRONMENTS

That National TAFE Council AGM 2006 recommends that National TAFE Council Executive develop a national policy on education in correctional environments in consultation with Branches and Associated Bodies to be considered by National TAFE Council AGM 2007.