



## ***Australian Education Union - Federal Office***

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### **ANOTHER 40,000 TAFE STUDENTS LIKELY TO MISS OUT IN 2003**

TAFE teachers meeting this week in Canberra will urge federal politicians to support additional funding for TAFE students.

“With nearly 40,000 TAFE students relegated to waiting lists in 2002, TAFE teachers are concerned that many more will miss out in 2003” said AEU Federal TAFE President Pat Forward.

With nothing in the recent budget to ease the unmet demand for TAFE courses, the AEU will press federal politicians to secure urgent federal funds to enable TAFE institutions to satisfy this demand.

Over 60 TAFE teachers from around Australia will meet in Canberra as part of a week of activities lobbying federal politicians and political party leaders to increase federal funding for TAFE.

The Australian Government, and the current Senate Skills Shortage Inquiry, have identified serious skills shortages in Australia.

“TAFE institutes will only be able to address Australia’s skill shortages if the federal government commits to increasing the number of TAFE places for entry level, pre-apprenticeship and pre-employment programs, and other areas of skills shortage” Pat Forward said.

The activities of TAFE teachers in Canberra will focus on gaining a commitment from the federal government to urgently allocate additional funds to TAFE.

#### **For further information, please contact:**

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