



# **TRENDS IN TAFE STUDENT FEES AND CHARGES**

AEU Research Report

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# TRENDS IN TAFE STUDENT FEES AND CHARGES

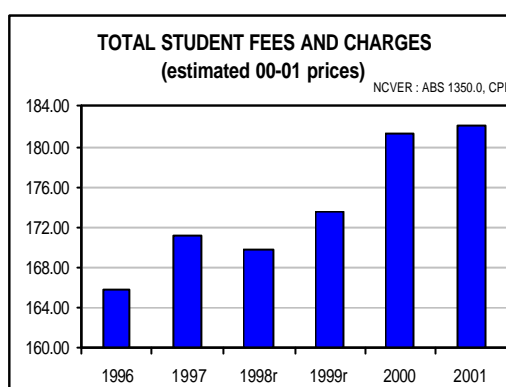
## Aggregate student fees and charges

As a proportion of total VET revenue, student fees and charges have risen from 4.1% in 1996 to 4.4% in 2001. (NCVERa) In contrast, fees and charges in the university sector provided 15% of revenue in 1997, with HECS providing a further 15%. (Borthwick 1999)

From 1996 to 2001, the Commonwealth contribution fell from 23.7% to 22.1% as a proportion of total VET revenue, while fee for service activity increased from 9.6% to 10.8% and ancillary trading/other from 4.9% to 6.1%. While total student fees and charges increased by 22.3% over that period, fee for service activities increased by 28.4% and ancillary trading/other by 44%. Meantime, the Commonwealth contribution to total revenue increased by 7.1% (as a result of the restoration of some growth funds) and the aggregate state government contribution increased by 13.4%. (NCVERa)

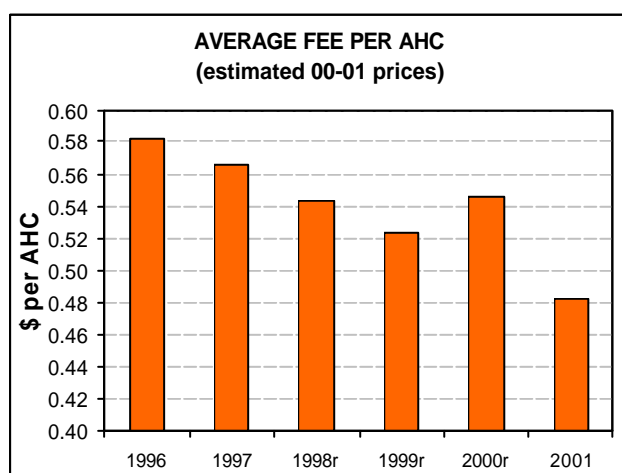
In other words, other forms of nongovernment revenue have increased at a greater rate than has been the case for aggregate student fees and charges, but all grew faster than government inputs.

From 1996 to 2001, the total revenue from student fees and charges increased from \$148.9m to \$182.1m, an increase of around 9.8% when adjusted for CPI movements. (NCVERa)



NCVER Statistics Financial Data; ABS 1350.0 for CPI

## Average fees



NCVER Statistics Financial Data; ABS 1350.0 for CPI

Over the period 1996 - 2001, both VET enrolments and AHC delivered have increased substantially. A more useful measure of the movement in student fees and charges is the average student fee per AHC delivered.

In actual money terms, the average student fee has fallen from \$0.52 per AHC in 1996 to \$0.48 in 2001. When adjusted for CPI, this is a fall of around 17.2% in real terms in the average fees charged per AHC. (NCVERa; ABS 1350.0)

In 1997, fees varied between \$0.51 per AHC to \$1.75 per hour for short courses, with additional student services/administration charges ranging from \$10 to \$150 per year. Most states have a cap on annual fees. (Borthwick 1999)

Average fees and charges per full time equivalent student in TAFE were around \$400 in 1997, while the average across all students, including those doing short courses, was \$100. (Borthwick 1999)

Only 9.5% of VET students are full time equivalent (ie have a load of 540 hours or more). (NCVER 2002) These average figures take fee concessions and exemptions into account, so students who do pay fees would pay somewhat more than this. Given the lack of significant movement in total fees, these figures have probably not changed all that much. Borthwick (1999) noted that a relatively high proportion of students in TAFE, at least 20-30% in many states, access fee concessions or exemptions.

In contrast, the HECS contribution for full time university students in 1999 ranged from \$3409 to \$5682 per annum, with the average upfront payment around \$3150 per annum. In addition, student or general services fees ranged from \$100 to over \$400. (Borthwick 1999)

There is little information about fees charged by private providers, but Borthwick (1999) notes that anecdotal evidence suggests fees for a one year course range from around \$5,000 to \$10,000.

## **System policies regarding fees and charges**

Each state/territory TAFE system determines its own fee arrangements and determines the level of cost recovery that fees provide. The fee policies discussed below refer to centrally funded/profile courses and charges related to fee for service courses are outside the scope of these policies.

### **Tuition fees**

All systems charge a form of tuition or administration fee to TAFE students. With the exception of NSW, which charges a flat fee, the tuition fee is calculated on the basis of an amount per nominal curriculum hour. The fee per nominal hour is a flat charge in all other systems apart from South Australia and the ACT, and varies from \$0.70 in the Northern Territory (NT University only) to \$1.50 in Tasmania. South Australia charges a differential fee per nominal hour for each course, according to a schedule. Charges for Cookery courses in South Australia, for example, vary from \$2.45 to \$3.30, while Small Business is charged out at \$2.15 per hour: some course fees are higher. In the ACT, fees are based on billing points and the number of nominal hours per billing point varies.

The majority of systems have capped the level of student tuition fees payable in any calendar year or semester. In Victoria, students will pay a maximum of \$500 in a calendar year, with lower caps for apprentices/trainees (\$290), VCE students (\$420) and others. In Tasmania, the maximum is \$900. In Queensland, the cap of \$672 relates to a program of study with BSSSS subjects at \$43 per semester. In Western Australia, there is a cap of \$420 per semester. The flat rate in NSW depends on both the level and length of the course and is \$690 for Associate Diploma ( now called Diploma under the AQF) and above courses, and \$250 for other courses that are longer than a semester.

No cap is indicated for South Australia, ACT and the Northern Territory University however their price regimes lead to different levels of fee for a full time student. In the ACT, a student enrolled over two semesters in a full time course (540 hours) would pay tuition fees of around \$648, while a student at NT University would pay \$378. In South Australia it would depend on the course; a Small Business course, for example, would cost \$1161 for 540 hours.

### **Other fees and charges**

The level of tuition fees is related to two other issues: the other fees and charges imposed in addition to the base tuition/ administration fee and the range of exemptions and concessions available to students.

In Tasmania, for example, the maximum tuition fee appears at first sight to be higher than most others. However the Tasmanian fee generally includes all material costs except 'add-ons' (such as acquisition of licences). Students may be required to purchase uniforms, tools etc which will remain their property. In a small number of courses, such as photography or jewellery, materials fees are charged but arrangements are in some instances made with private companies to sell these at concession rates.

Likewise, in South Australia no materials fees may be charged, but students may be required to purchase tools, uniforms etc that remain their property.

In Queensland there is a student services fee of \$0.20 per nominal hour, with a cap of \$158.20. This effectively brings the base administrative charge (tuition fees and student services charges) up to \$1.05 per AHC. Essential basic materials required to complete the study and off-campus activities detailed in the curriculum must be provided without additional cost. Anecdotal reports indicate that it is routine to charge for class notes. In Business Studies type courses, for example, this leads to additional charges of around \$5 per unit on average, but can be up to \$30-\$40. While the requirement to provide essential materials without additional charges means that, for example, food is provided for cookery classes and wood for woodworking classes, in general the practice is that if students get to take the product they have made home, they are required to pay for the materials.

In Victoria, goods, materials and excursions may be charged to students at no more than actual cost and any charge for student services/amenities must make provision for hardship exemptions. Anecdotal reports indicate that a student amenities fee of \$0.20 per hour is fairly standard for on-campus courses. Student amenities fees are charged for those students paying a minimum fee, which in effect, leaving aside extreme hardship exemptions, would make the real base cost for a full time student on general concessions something around \$150.

In NSW materials charges are imposed for some courses, students must purchase uniforms, tools etc and there is provision for payment of Student Association membership. Anecdotal reports here indicate that in some cases, cross subsidies are applied to ensure that, for example, students in prevocational courses do not have to pay materials charges.

In Western Australia, there is also provision for materials charges and an enrolment charge of \$20 per semester. At NT University, some courses have a materials fee and students are charged a student amenities fee up to a maximum \$224 per year.

The ACT has no cap on tuition fees and allows for a range of other mandatory fees and charges. These include materials fees (averaging around \$95 but up to \$240), internet access fees (\$25), student services (CITSA) fees (\$58 for a year), excursion fees, as well as tools, uniforms etc. In addition, required text book lists can add significantly to the cost for students. For example, a Certificate III course in Business (Administration) of around 460 hours per semester (about 25 hours per week) would incur total fees (tuition and other charges) of \$631 per semester. Textbooks could add around \$175-300 to that cost. If the ACT course were 540 hours for the year, the total cost would have been \$806, in itself not so different to the level of fees charged elsewhere.

The real difference for the ACT and South Australia is that the absence of a fees cap means that the overall fee levels can be significantly higher than they would be in other systems, particularly for those courses with a heavy load. Taking into account other fees and charges which apply, such a high load course (920 hours) over two semesters would cost significantly more in the ACT and South Australia. (While the NT University also has no cap, the hourly fee charge is low.) However, only 9.5% of students study full time and 540 hours would be more common as a definition of full time study than the current example.

|  | <b>920 hours load</b> | <b>540 hours load</b> |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| ACT:<br>(assumes 1 Billing Point is 5 NHS) | \$1262 per year       | \$805.80 per year     |
| South Australia:                           | \$1978 per year       | \$1161 per year       |

This is in contrast to the costs that would apply in other systems. While resource charges are unknown, the total ACT additional charges come to around \$160 per annum so could perhaps provide a rough indicator of possible additional costs:

|                                |  |   |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| NSW:                           | \$250 plus materials charges and possible Student Association membership | \$250 plus materials charges and possible Student Association |
| Victoria:                      | \$684 plus materials charges   | \$608 plus materials charges                                  |
| Queensland:                    | \$830  | \$567   |
| Northern Territory University: | \$868 plus possible materials charge                                     | \$602 plus possible materials charge                          |
| Western Australia:             | \$880 plus possible resources charge                                     | \$661 plus possible resources charge                          |
| Tasmania:                      | \$900  | \$810   |

For a full time TAFE student with a 540 hour load outside NSW, the total fees and other charges if paid in full would in most systems be in the order of something around \$600-\$700; it is worth noting that 34.4% of all TAFE clients are in NSW, where maximum fees are considerably lower than this. For 90% of TAFE students the annual fee burden would be substantially lower given that their course load is, on average, around 200 hours rather than 540 hours. As Borthwick (1999) indicated, the average fees and charges paid by TAFE students are more like \$100.

It should be noted that the effect of differential nominal hours for the same course can result in higher fees in some states.

It is perhaps worth noting, as Borthwick (1999) does, that the 1997 Senate Inquiry, *Not a level Playground: the private and commercial funding of government schools*, estimated that senior students in government schools pay an average of \$200 for equipment, materials etc, excluding voluntary contributions and the cost of uniforms and the like. The Brotherhood of St Laurence estimated that parents pay about \$800 a year in contributions and levies for a secondary school student. (Borthwick 1999)

### **Exemptions and concessions**

As Borthwick (1999) noted, in many states at least 20%-30% of students receive fee exemptions or concessions on the basis of financial need.

In general, these are provided to recipients of a range of Commonwealth allowances and benefits, including AUSTUDY and other student allowances, and people with Health Care, Pensioner Concession and Veteran Affairs Pensioner Concession cards. They also apply to certain targeted equity groups, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Fee concessions and/or exemptions in some cases apply to tuition fees only, in others also apply to other fees and charges such as student services fees.

Either concessions or exemptions also apply for a range of particular courses, variously including literacy and numeracy courses, ESL, prevocational courses and courses specifically for targeted equity groups.

While the South Australian concessions (apart from low fee courses such as prevocational courses) are only set at \$0.40 per hour, in general fee concessions for individuals and particular courses range from 50% (as in the ACT) through to full exemption from fees for some students in NSW, Queensland and at Northern Territory University. In addition, other systems, such as Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia may waive all fees in the case of extreme financial hardship. In some cases students receiving fee concessions will still be required to pay a student amenities charge.

In the ACT, student loans of \$200 are available from the CIT Student Association and there are also, as in South Australia, some scholarships made available. In a number of systems there are arrangements which enable students to pay fees by instalment.

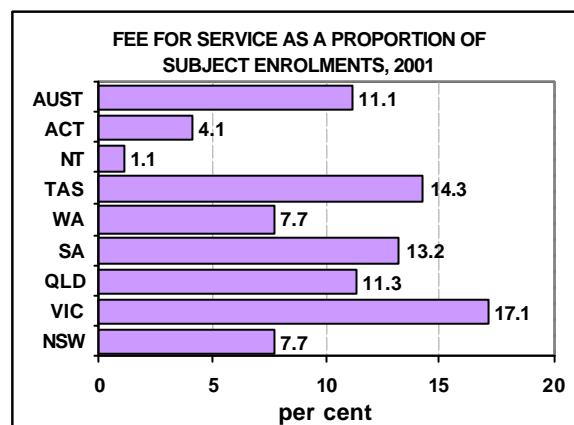
It is worth noting that even if concessions reduce the level of fees and charges significantly, even relatively modest amounts can be a burden for students facing extreme severe financial hardship. There are also 'hidden' costs relating to access, such as transport, particularly in rural and remote areas.

## Fee for service courses

The vast majority of students enrolled in centrally funded or profile courses face fees and charges which are capped, with exemptions available to those students suffering severe financial hardship. However the resource pressures on TAFEs across Australia have led to a growing reliance on fee for service students.

In 2001, 11.1% of total subject enrolments were on a fee for service basis. While 1.1% of subject enrolments in the Northern Territory were on a fee for service basis, this was true for 7.7% of subject enrolments in NSW and 17.1% in Victoria.

In revenue terms, fee for service activities provided 10.8% of recurrent revenues across Australia in 2001, ranging from 2.2% of revenue in the Northern Territory to 21.1% in Victoria. (NCVERa)



NCVER 2002, *Australian vocational education and training statistics 2001 In Detail*

Some of the concerns that have been expressed regarding fee levels may reflect the growth in fee for service programs. Outside the profile frameworks, these enrolments are not subject to the policies that provide limits on fees and charges and concessions and exemptions for students facing hardship.

There is little public information available about enrolments in fee for service courses and the extent to which, for example, they represent courses negotiated with and paid for by enterprises on behalf of their employees. Anecdotal reports from teachers indicate that individual students for whom there are no profile places are studying on a fee for service basis. It has been suggested that fee for service places are often provided to augment inadequate numbers of places provided within state profiles. In some cases, these students are sharing a class room with other students who, being within the state profile, have access to the limits and concessions within their system's fees policy. There are indeed some anecdotal reports suggesting that in some TAFE Departments, a certain

proportion of fee for service/commercial students must be enrolled in particular courses. In some cases, courses offering national accreditation are bringing in considerable revenue and are charged at commercial rates.

Some teachers report going to considerable effort to arrange traineeships for their students so that they do not have to pay fees commensurate with fee for service charges.

There are over 40,000 potential students who are unable to gain a TAFE place each year. The fee for service enrolments are at least in part an additional and invisible form of unmet demand, where the full costs of enrolments are transferred from government to individual students. Where this occurs it leads to substantial inequity between students and imposes a considerable burden on some. The obvious answer is to ensure that funding for TAFE is increased to enable a reduction in fee for service activities.

## **Comparative public support**

For TAFE students, the average level of public subsidy of their study is 95% of course costs. The subsidy for the 10% of students who are equivalent full time was around \$7800 in 1997. The average student undertook 198 hours of study, paid average fees of \$100 and received a public subsidy of under \$2200 per annum.

The average undergraduate university student paid an average upfront HECS payment of around \$3150 in 1997, and received a public subsidy of 66% of course costs, or an average \$6150 per annum. The annual public subsidy ranged from \$2950 for Humanities courses to \$11,375 for Medicine. (Borthwick 1999)

The percentage of course costs met through public subsidy is higher in TAFE than in university. However, the average VET student receives a far lower amount of public subsidy than does the average undergraduate student.

## **Conclusion**

To the extent that there are issues about student fee levels in TAFE, it would appear to have more to do with the distribution of those fees and charges rather than the average or total levels.

In response to a Senate Question on Notice early this year, DEST indicated that 2.4% of those not undertaking vocational training identified cost as a reason for non participation, and 3.9% of non participants said they would have trained in the previous year if the cost had been lower. (SLC 2002)

At the same time, there are suggestions in some systems that materials and other charges have increased and are imposing financial pressures on students. In some systems, such additional charges are controlled and limited. More information is needed on the extent of these 'hidden' costs, and their levels for different types of courses.

It is perhaps worth reiterating that 90% of TAFE students study part time. It is worth noting also that some 23.8% of all students enrolled in Advanced Diploma/Diploma or Certificate courses receive financial support from their employer, whether they are enrolled at TAFE, private providers, university or school. (ABS 2001) There is unfortunately no differentiation of the levels of support by provider, since TAFE students are probably more likely to have an employment relationship than are undergraduate or school students. Of those students who are undertaking Certificate III or IV courses, the overwhelming majority of whom would be enrolled in TAFE, 37% report that they are

receiving financial support from their employer. They may also be receiving government or other support.

Students enrolled on a fee for service basis, or individuals who have been unable to gain a TAFE place, fall outside the general access parameters established by state and territory policies in relation to fees.

The Commonwealth and state and territory governments have a responsibility to ensure that all Australians are able to access the education and training they need to participate as active citizens and workers. The AEU is opposed to the imposition of fees in TAFE. In the first instance, measures need to be implemented which address the existing inequities in costs and access.

### **Issues to address:**

A universal application of a cap on annual fees would ensure greater equity for students with heavy loads in those systems that do not currently have such a limit on total costs.

Increased funding levels to TAFE systems would reduce the pressure on increasing fee for service activities and assist with reducing or maintaining fees and charges at low levels.

Provision of increased places is needed to ensure access for all school leavers unable to access university or employment, as well as more mature Australians who need access to vocational education and training.

In addition, implementation of the House of Representatives Standing Committee's 1998 recommendation (HTSCEET 1998) for the Commonwealth to contribute additional funds on a dollar for dollar basis to the states and territories to assist TAFE institutes that enrol a disproportionately large number of disadvantaged students would assist in ensuring that all students receive needed financial support and access to adequate student support services.

### **Sources**

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**STATE AND TERRITORY POLICIES ON TAFE STUDENT FEES AND CHARGES**

|            | <b>Tuition fee</b>  | <b>Fee cap</b>  | <b>Exemptions</b>   | <b>Concessions</b>   | <b>Student services/ amenities</b>   | <b>Other fees/charges</b>   | <b>Loans/ time to pay</b>  |
|------------|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| <b>ACT</b> | <p>\$1.20 per nominal hour supervised.</p> <p>(Indicative figure: based on Billing Points; 1 BP costs \$6 &amp; = x nominal hours – 5 is indicative)</p>  | <p>No apparent cap.</p> <p>(540 hours @ 36 weeks = \$710)</p> |   | <p>50% concession on course and RPL fees for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-AUSTUDY etc</li> <li>- Pensioner concession, Veteran Affairs pensions.</li> </ul> <p>Decreased value of concessions granted in recent years- no concessions for Health Card holders. (?)</p> | <p>All students pay \$29 (+ GST) CITSA Services fee except very short courses.</p> <p>Maximum 2 fees per year, at least once per semester.</p> | <p>Materials/resources fees apply to some courses. Range \$11-\$240, average \$95.</p> <p>Excursion fees</p> <p>Internet Access fees mandatory for access eg \$25 for 50MB</p> <p>24 hour computer laboratory access fee.</p> <p>Tools, uniforms etc.</p> <p>Required text books to be purchased by students.</p> | <p>\$200 loans available from CITSA –no longer cover tuition fees.</p> <p>135 ACT Gov't Scholarships.</p> <p>No instalment payments.</p> |
| <b>NSW</b> | <p>Admin. Charge:</p> <p>Assoc. Dip – Dip. = \$690 in 2002 &amp; \$710 in 2003</p> <p>Other courses more than a semester: = \$250 in 2002 &amp; \$260 in 2003.</p> <p>One semester course; \$129 in 2002.</p> | <p>Flat course fee.</p>                                       | <p>Fee exemptions for some courses, some students.</p> <p>Eligibility for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students</li> <li>- social security beneficiaries</li> <li>- AUSTUDY etc</li> <li>- clients of disability consultants.</li> </ul> <p>Usually only one exemption per year.</p> |  | <p>Student Association membership</p>  | <p>Materials charges for some courses.</p> <p>Uniforms/protective clothing must be purchased.</p>   |  |

|   | Tuition fee   | Fee cap   | Exemptions  | Concessions   | Student services/ amenities   | Other fees/charges   | Loans/ time to pay  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| <b>NT</b><br><b>(NT</b><br><b>Univers</b><br><b>ity only)</b> | \$0.70 per AHC in 2002 & \$0.80 in 2003<br><br>RPL = \$0.25 per AHC | No apparent cap.<br><br>(540 hours = \$378)   | No tuition fee for:<br>- AQF 1 & 11<br>- AQF III & above in a remote location (does not include regional centres)<br>- designated Industrial experience modules   |   | Student amenities fee calculated on hourly basis, maximum \$224 per year, full time load is 540 hours.<br>(204 maximum in 2003)<br><br>Exemptions:<br>- AQF I & II<br>- profile courses in remote areas<br>- Designated Work Experience units<br>- Regional centres pay external amenities fee<br>- RPL | Some courses have a materials fee.   | Deferred payment scheme is available.   |
| <b>QLD</b>  | \$0.85 per nominal hour.  | Maximum is \$672 for a program of study per year.<br><br>Fee for BSSSS subjects is \$43 per semester.<br><br>Only 25% of fees payable for nominal vocational placement hours. | No tuition or student services fees for:<br>- extra learning support subjects.<br>- subjects taken as part of student's secondary education.<br>- AMEP, AEMP & DEETYA funded language, literacy & numeracy programs<br>- Indigenous Education Policy<br><br>No tuition fee for state funded adult literacy or numeracy program. Must pay student services fee, subject to exemption for extreme hardship. | Director may exempt for tuition and student services fees for extreme hardship.<br><br>75% of tuition fee may be exempt for:<br>-students not completed yr 12/ under 17<br>-BSSS or equivalent for under 18s<br>-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students<br>-health card/pensioner concession card or partner or dependent of card holder. | \$0.20 per nominal hour.<br><br>Maximum fee for a program of study per year \$158.20<br><br>Student services fee for BSSSS subjects is \$54 per semester.   | Must provide without charge the essential basic materials required to complete study.<br><br>May sell products produced in class.<br><br>May charge for optional class notes/ learning resources.<br><br>May charge for extra-curricular off-campus activities except when detailed in curriculum (eg flexible, offsite) | Director may approve time to pay if total tuition and student services fees are more than \$75. |

|           | <b>Tuition fee</b>  | <b>Fee cap</b>   | <b>Exemptions</b>   | <b>Concessions</b>  | <b>Student services/ amenities</b> | <b>Other fees/charges</b>   | <b>Loans/ time to pay</b>   |
|-----------|---|--|---|---|------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>SA</b> | <p>Schedule of fees per AHC for each course-</p> <p>(Fee ranges: \$0.50 prevoc; \$1.20-\$1.25 Textiles, Clothing &amp; Footwear: \$2.45-\$3.30 Cookery; \$2.15-\$4.10 Auto Mechanical&amp; Electrical; \$2.15 Small Business; \$3.60 Plumbing.)</p> | <p>No cap listed.</p> <p>Separate fee arrangements for apprentices/trainees under User Choice.</p> <p>(eg 540 hours * \$2.15 = \$1161)</p> | <p>\$0.50 per AHC for literacy&amp; numeracy, Women's Education programs.</p> <p>Director may approve exemptions from fees on basis of financial hardship.</p> <p>50% reduction for RPL/RCC, concession applied after fee halved.</p> | <p>Concessions only for current Health Care/Pensioner Concession/Veteran Affairs Pensioner Concession card.</p> <p>Concession students pay 40 cents less per AHC (except for prevoc &amp; Literacy courses etc)</p> | <p>TAFE fee covers.</p>            | <p>No materials fees to be charged.</p> <p>Students purchase tools, uniforms, textbooks etc that remain their property.</p> <p>Noncommercial notes, handouts and consumables are covered by the TAFE fee.</p> <p>Wine not included in TAFE fee.</p> | <p>Director's discretion re fees by instalment.</p> <p>Some scholarships are available.</p> |

|            | <b>Tuition fee</b>              | <b>Fee cap</b>   | <b>Exemptions</b>   | <b>Concessions</b>  | <b>Student services/ amenities</b> | <b>Other fees/charges</b>  | <b>Loans/ time to pay</b>  |
|------------|---------------------------------|--|---|---|------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>TAS</b> | \$1.50 per nominal module hour. | Maximum is \$900 per year.<br><br>Maximum fee with concession is \$250 | A limited program for half price fees to meet industry training needs in growth areas reflected in the Industry Development Plan. ('Only a handful'). | Concession of \$1 per \$1.50 fee. Maximum concession fee is \$250.<br><br>Some may receive a book allowance of \$60.<br><br>Concessions for Centrelink Pension Concession and Veteran Affairs cards, Health Care cards except LI (unless with Austudy/ Abstudy/Youth Allowance.)<br><br>Concessions also apply for courses such as literacy and numeracy, ESL, prevocational courses and specifically targeted equity groups.<br><br>Applications for concessions may be made by Health Card holders who are not eligible for the concession. |                                    | The fee includes all material costs etc except 'add ons'. Other fees may apply for 'add ons' such as acquisition of licences, additional trade testing, First Aid certificate, course booklets.<br><br>Students may be required to purchase safety equipment, uniforms, tools etc.<br><br>Materials charges are not common- take home stuff. Eg photography students purchase film - \$600-\$1000. Arrangements with private companies to sell materials (eg for jewellery) at concession rates. | Students may pay by instalments in special circumstances, with a deposit of \$100. |

|            | <b>Tuition fee</b>             | <b>Fee cap</b>  | <b>Exemptions</b>   | <b>Concessions</b>  | <b>Student services/ amenities</b>   | <b>Other fees/charges</b>  | <b>Loans/ time to pay</b>                                  |
|------------|--------------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| <b>VIC</b> | \$1 per enrolled subject hour. | <p>The maximum tuition fee for total enrolments by a student in centrally funded courses is \$500 per calendar year.</p> <p>The minimum fee is \$40.</p> <p>Students on full AUSTUDY pay a maximum of \$250.</p> <p>The maximum for apprentices and trainees is \$290 for an apprenticeship/traineeship program.</p> <p>The maximum for VCE courses is \$420.</p> | <p>Councils may determine concessions where collection would impose extreme hardship. This may include exemption from the minimum charge.</p> <p>No fees may be charged prisoners or persons detained eg in a youth training centre.</p> <p>(Anecdotal reports suggest that student amenities fees tend to be charged to minimum fee students.)</p> | <p>No more than the minimum fee (\$40) may be charged for centrally funded courses in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Basic Adult Education</li> <li>- Literacy or Numeracy</li> <li>- ESL</li> <li>- programs that specifically target women (to redress educational/ employment disadvantage), unemployed workers, old age pensioners and/or persons with a disability.</li> </ul> <p>No more than the minimum fee may be charged for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- students, their dependent spouses or children, receiving a range of benefits, pensions or allowances</li> <li>- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students.</li> </ul> <p>Students on full AUSTUDY get a 50% exemption (with the maximum \$250). If they are on benefits/ a dependent they pay no more than the minimum.</p> | <p>If charged, must make provision for concessions and exemptions in cases of hardship.</p> <p>(Anecdotal reports suggest that such fees are usual and that \$0.20 per hour would tend to be the standard charge).</p> | <p>No more than the actual cost of goods or materials to be retained by student.</p> <p>Actual cost of an excursion or field trip which is not a requirement of the accredited course.</p> <p>Recovery of no more than actual cost of assessment of RPL, only if done at student request/assent.</p> | Some institutes provide for time to pay/credit card debit. |

|           | <b>Tuition fee</b>                          | <b>Fee cap</b>  | <b>Exemptions</b>  | <b>Concessions</b>   | <b>Student services/ amenities</b>   | <b>Other fees/charges</b>   | <b>Loans/ time to pay</b> |
|-----------|---|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| <b>WA</b> | \$1.15 per nominal student curriculum hour. | Maximum \$420 per semester.<br>Includes apprenticeships & traineeships. | Access and equity courses exempt from tuition fee but must pay \$20 enrolment fee and resource fee. May be waived in case of financial hardship. | Concession fee is \$0.60 per student curriculum hour; maximum is \$210.<br><br>Concessions for Pensioners Concession, Health Care and Repatriation Health Benefits Card holders, and WA Seniors' card, AUSTUDY etc, custodial institution. | Enrolment charge: \$20 per semester. | Resource fee applies to most courses, level dependent on course.<br><br>Levels high for some such as hospitality, art & design, fashion, photography and aeronautics. |                           |