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AEU State of our TAFE's survey

The first ever national survey of staff working in TAFE shows that teachers across the country are struggling to cope with higher workloads and reduced resources.

A total of 2,691 TAFE members across the country completed the survey which was open between February 8 and March 1.

The key findings around student demand for training and education were:

- 46% of respondents said they were aware of student waiting lists in their department or TAFE.
- The areas where waiting lists were highest were engineering and related technologies (21%), education (17%) and language, literacy and numeracy (16%).
- 57% of respondents said student demand in their area had increased in the last two years.
- 58% of respondents said they had been forced to turn students away in the last two years.
- 70% of respondents said that their TAFE did not have the capacity to meet industry needs, particularly in the local communities.

But while demand for quality training continues to rise, teachers are doing more with less.

Over half the respondents said their budget had decreased in the last two years and 84 per cent said their workload had increased over the same period. Just under half (49 %) said class sizes had increased.

If new money was available teachers said the highest priorities should be computers and technology (58%), trade equipment (50%), technical and admin support (49%) and classrooms (46%).

The AEU State of our TAFE's survey report can be found at: www.aeufederal.org.au



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TAFE Staff Survey Results at a Glance:

Are you aware of any student waiting lists in the institute/department? Yes : 45.9%
No : 54.1%

Have you had to turn away potential students from the college in the last two years? Yes : 57.7%
No : 42.3%

In your classroom delivery area, have class sizes over the last two years: Increased : 49.2%
Decreased : 8.6%
Same : 39.6%
Don't know : 2.6%

In the last two years, has student demand in your industry area (choose one of the following): Increased : 55.8%
Decreased : 11.4%
Same : 27.8%
Don't know : 5.0%

Has the overall budget for your department in the last two years: Increased : 5.3%
Decreased : 52.5%
Same : 19.1%
Don't know : 23.1%

Since the start of 2008, has your workload: Increased : 83.7%
Decreased : 1.8%
Same : 13.7%
Don't know : 0.8%

Does the institute have the capacity to meet industry needs particularly in local community? Yes : 30.1%
No : 69.9%

How would you prioritise the use of additional funds for teaching and learning at your institute?

	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
Classrooms	46.0%	34.9%	19.1%
Trade equipment	50.2%	31.4%	18.5%
Library/learning centre	24.7%	53.7%	21.5%
Computers and technology	57.7%	31.7%	10.6%
Support for workplace delivery	43.1%	34.3%	22.6%
Studio equipment	17.1%	36.5%	46.3%
Technical and admin support	49.4%	35.3%	15.3%

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