

IMPROVING THE STATUS OF TEACHERS

1. TAFE teaching is a profession which requires the possession of tertiary teaching qualifications as well as possession of tertiary teacher education qualifications and experience including specialist qualifications in disabilities and learning support.
2. The status of TAFE teachers is linked to a number of issues, including:
 - industry and community perception of teachers and the quality of teaching;
 - support for TAFE and teachers from government, employers and management;
 - manageable workload and satisfying work;
 - teachers being well qualified for their positions, including current qualifications in technical/vocational areas and in teaching skills;
 - job security.

The AEU recognises that improving the status of TAFE teachers is also contingent on the creation and maintenance of high levels of job security in the TAFE workforce. In pursuit of this objective, the AEU, its Branches and Associated Bodies will continue to implement existing policies which make job security a central issue for the union.

3. To address the qualification issues, TAFE teachers must be given increased access to professional development. The AEU supports the following principles in relation to this professional development:
 - that there be increased funding from both Federal and State governments for professional development programs;
 - programs for professional development to be available in a range of modes to suit the needs of teachers;
 - where possible such programs should be accredited qualifications or lead to such qualification, including Graduate Certificates and Diplomas;
 - professional development should include up-to-date teaching skills, technical currency programs and specialist educational qualifications and be available for permanent, contract and sessional (part-time) teachers;
 - teachers must be supported to undertake such programs including funding and teaching release time.
4. That the NTC Executive develop strategies seeking to achieve the acceptance by government and other appropriate entities of the foregoing statements.