

NATIONAL TAFE FUNDING CAMPAIGN 2003

1. As part of the AEU Public Education Campaign the 2003 national TAFE funding campaign has four major elements:
 - The 2004 ANTA Agreement;
 - Opposition to increases in TAFE student fees and charges, including HECS-type schemes;
 - The federal election;
 - Guaranteed adequate funding for TAFE.

2. The National TAFE Council Executive will develop a campaign timeline which takes into account key events including:
 - Federal budget (May 13);
 - MINCO meetings;
 - State elections;
 - Political party conferences;
 - Public Education Day;
 - ACTU Congress;
 - ACTU VET Conference;
 - Parliamentary Sitting Dates

3. Federal campaign activities

National TAFE Council and Federal TAFE Officers will:

- develop a campaign to oppose the application of the principles of national competition policy to TAFE;
- organise the national TAFE Activists' Seminar in Canberra;
- finalise specific funding claims for the 2004 ANTA Agreement and review the terms of a national plan for TAFE as the basis for a revised Agreement;
- develop the student fees and charges campaign kit, with the support of the National TAFE Women's Committee;
- prepare a 2003 TAFE Federal budget submission as part of the AEU submission;
- co-ordinate around Australia a national media campaign and associated focussing activities to draw attention to critical funding issues and the AEU TAFE funding campaign;
- lobby MINCO and seek to work with Ministers on issues of mutual concern, including funding claims, opposition to HECS and student fees and charges;
- develop appropriate campaign materials for members, politicians, students and the community including consideration of videos/DVDs and other electronic media;
- lobby the Federal Government and Members of Parliament as appropriate;
- work with the ALP, the Greens and the Democrats in the development of their education policies and legislative programs;

- work with other relevant unions, including the AMWU, on the development of joint policies and campaigns around education and employment;
- continue to develop strategic national alliances with unions, employers, students, community organisations such as ACOSS and other stakeholders;
- undertake further research on the impact of HECS and/or loans schemes and on identifying gaps in policies about tuition fees and charges;
- initiate research on funding models for lifelong learning;
- provide TAFE input into the development of an AEU national blueprint/vision for public education;
- consider the development of a public TAFE supporters' network;
- gather information on the organisation and establishment of learning communities/networks involving educationalists, industry and community, and their impact on TAFE courses and delivery.

4. Branch/Associated Body campaign activities

Branches and Associated Bodies are requested to:

- develop a state/territory campaign timeline within the framework established by NTCE and the Public Education Campaign;
- develop TAFE activists' training and lobbying programs with support from Federal Officers as appropriate;
- lobby state and territory Ministers in support of national AEU claims;
- develop nationally coordinated demands on state and territory governments/budgets which seek to further the national agenda and provide support for local campaigns around these demands;
- ensure regular lobbying of federal politicians in relation to national and state/territory TAFE issues;
- develop state activities around Public Education Day and other key events;
- develop strategies to inform members in other sectors of the threats facing TAFE and seek their active support for increased TAFE funding and in opposition to any HECS scheme;
- work with other relevant unions on the development of state campaigns around education and employment;
- continue to develop alliances and, where possible, jointly campaign with unions, students, employers and other stakeholders;
- develop and implement a communications strategy to increase community awareness of TAFE issues at state and local levels;
- seek to engage state and local media in the debate about TAFE;
- work with the ALP, the Greens and the Democrats in the development of their education policies and legislative programs;
- seek to engage students and ex-students to promote the application of TAFE to their current or future lives;
- seek to have union representation on ANTA subcommittees and other decision-making bodies;
- share campaign materials and strategies on a regular basis.

5. Student fees and charges

The AEU reiterates its opposition to student fees in TAFE. As an interim measure the AEU:

- requests Branches/Associated Bodies to consider seeking caps on annual fees to provide greater equity for students across Australia;
- will campaign for increased funding to reduce the pressure to increase fee for service activities;
- calls on governments to increase places to meet demand;
- calls for support for a dollar for dollar Commonwealth contribution to assist TAFE institutes enrolling a disproportionate number of disadvantaged students.