

TasTAFE Restored as a Centre of Excellence



Andrea Dawkins MP | Greens' Education spokesperson

TasTAFE will again be a centre of excellence for public vocational education and training.

TasTAFE is a vital contributor to the State's social and economic wellbeing. It plays a critical role in providing a holistic education for students to equip them for future employment and it strengthens the capacity of Tasmania's current and future workforce.

In recent years, Tasmania's public training provider has been undermined by Federal and State governments' outsourcing vocational education and training to private, at times questionable, for-profit providers.

The for-profit training sector has rightly come under increasing scrutiny following evidence of dodgy practices. Governments must support the provision of quality public vocational training by ensuring it is given the resources to be the training provider of choice.

The State Government must also prioritise TasTAFE in its procurement practices. Wherever possible, government funds must be directed to the public technical and further education provider. This is key to restoring TasTAFE.

There is an opportunity for TasTAFE to be the training provider of choice for students and industry.

THE GREENS WILL

- ▲ Restore TasTAFE as a Centre of Excellence.
- ▲ Fund 10 new staff members to improve quality and compliance as well as training resource and assessment development.
- ▲ Ensure 70% of State Government training contracts are awarded to TasTAFE as the public provider.
- ▲ Release the audit into TasTAFE arising from the Integrity Commission report and ensure its recommendations are implemented in full.
- ▲ Provide TasTAFE with \$20 million in capital works funding.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE STRATEGY

TAFE has suffered blow after blow from State and Federal governments' outsourcing of vocational education.

TasTAFE has and can be again a centre of excellence in vocational training. We will fund the development of a comprehensive strategy for making TAFE a centre of excellence over two years.

This report will identify what organisational and training changes are required, as well as the further investment required from government.

The delivery of the changes identified in the Centre of Excellence Strategy will be funded, in part, by a guaranteed minimum proportion of 70% of vocational education contracts being provided to TasTAFE.

IMMEDIATE INVESTMENT

While the strategy is being developed we will immediately invest in five additional educational managers to contribute to quality and compliance oversight, as well as five staff members responsible for resource and assessment development.

TasTAFE's asset depreciation outstrips capital works programs. As part of our commitment to reinvigorating TasTAFE, we will provide \$20 million over four years for capital works to upgrade and renew public training facilities.

TASTAFE AUDIT

There remains a cloud hanging over TasTAFE following a damning Integrity Commission investigation, initiated by the Greens in 2016.

The audit of TasTAFE arising from this investigation has not been released by the Liberals despite a pledge that it would be made publicly available. This is impacting on TasTAFE staff and students and leaves questions in the public mind about the administration of TasTAFE.

Transparency is required to enable the organisation to move forward and become the Centre of Excellence for vocational education and training.

We will release the TasTAFE audit and ensure its recommendations are implemented to the benefit of the organisation, its students, teachers, and industry.

INITIATIVE COST

Initiative Investment (\$m)	1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year	4 th Year
Centre of Excellence	0.14	0.15	0.00	0.00
Educational managers	0.66	0.67	0.68	0.70
Resource and Assessment	0.53	0.54	0.55	0.56
Capital Works Funding	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Total	6.33	6.36	6.23	6.26