



COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC  
SECTOR UNION

SPSF GROUP NSW BRANCH  
ABN 11 681 811 732

In Reply Please Quote *MDB: ndef:CN116381*

2 March 2020

The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee MP  
Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education  
GPO Box 5341  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

By email: [geoff.lee@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:geoff.lee@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Minister,

**Re: TAFE Review**

I write in relation to the review of TAFE NSW announced by the Premier on 25 February 2020, that is to be headed up Mr David Gonski AC and Professor Peter Shergold AC.

The Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU NSW) supports a fully funded, modern Vocational Education sector in NSW. Instead, we have witnessed the erosion of funding to TAFE NSW, that has seen reduction in student numbers from 579,719 in 2012 to 424,000 in 2015/16. During the corresponding period, the TAFE NSW Budget (including NSW and Federal Government funding) was cut from \$1,581.4 billion in 2012 to \$1,295.7 billion in 2016.

Whilst, the union is not necessarily opposed to a review of TAFE NSW, we seek the following. That:

1. The CPSU NSW be provided with a copy of the Terms of Reference.
2. Regular consultation occurs between TAFE NSW and the CPSU NSW during all phases of the review.
3. There be a commitment that TAFE NSW be fully funded by both NSW and Federal Governments.
4. A commitment to not fully or partially privatise TAFE NSW be given.
5. There be a moratorium on all current and proposed restructures until the conclusion of the review. Including the One TAFE Modernisation program which the union understand has not yet been approved by Minister Lee.

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The CPSU NSW is the Federal Counterpart of the Public Service Association of NSW. CPSU NSW members are also members of the PSA.

6. The review of TAFE focuses on the mismanagement of TAFE over the past several years, and look at how this can be reversed.
7. The NSW component of TAFE funding be fully restored.
8. That the proposal to introduce of a HECS-style scheme for students be scrapped, as it will likely discourage students enrolments, especially those from working class backgrounds. Instead TAFE offers free TAFE courses in areas of skills shortages

We look forward to discussing our concerns with the CEO on Friday 20 March 2020.

Yours sincerely



**Stewart Little**  
**State Branch Secretary**

cc: Mr Steffan Faurby Managing Director TAFE NSW [mdtafensw@tafensw.edu.au](mailto:mdtafensw@tafensw.edu.au)