

Labor

MICHAEL DALEY & LABOR

Labor's plan to rebuild TAFE

www.nswlabor.org.au

A large white sign with the letters 'TAFE' in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by 'NSW' in a smaller font to the right. The sign is mounted on a dark blue brick wall. A red arrow points towards the sign from the right side of the frame.

TAFE NSW

Background

TAFE is a vital part of our education system

TAFE is one of the most important institutions in NSW:

- Providing people opportunities to learn and advance their career; and
- Ensuring NSW has a skilled workforce for a strong economy.

TAFE traces its history to the founding of the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts and the Sydney Technical College in the 1830s.¹ Since that time, vocational education and training in NSW has evolved into the modern institution of TAFE.

The Liberals and Nationals have sacked 5,700 TAFE teachers and support staff

The Liberals and Nationals have sacked more than 5,700 teachers and support staff at TAFE over the last eight years. This meant a loss of around one third of TAFE's workforce.

When the Liberals and Nationals came to office in 2011, there were more than 15,700 teachers and support staff working at TAFE.²

There are now just over 10,000 teachers and support staff at TAFE.³

These cuts have led to reductions in teaching hours and support for students.⁴

TAFE job cuts in NSW more than double what State Government initially flagged

ABC News
20 June 2015

1 TAFE NSW, Our History: www.tafensw.edu.au/about/history

2 NSW Budget 2011-2012, Budget Paper No. 3 (Budget Estimates), p. 3 - 19

3 TAFE NSW Annual Report 2017-18, p. 63

4 Inquiry into Vocational education and training in New South Wales, Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6, 15 December 2015, p. 75-81

‘Shortsighted’: More TAFE closures feared

Sydney Morning Herald
29 October 2017

Campus closures

The Liberals and Nationals have closed TAFE campuses across NSW:

- Dapto’s TAFE campus was closed in 2016;⁵
- TAFE campuses at Qurindi and Bega have been replaced with “shopfronts”;⁶ and
- In 2015, a leaked cabinet document exposed the Liberals and Nationals’ plans to close 27 TAFE sites including Chullora, Epping, Belrose, Scone, Dapto, Vincentia, Maclean, Murwillumbah, Corowa, Narrandera and Grenfell.⁷

Fewer students leading to skill shortages

There are now 175,000 fewer students enrolled at TAFE than when the Liberals and Nationals came to office.

When the Liberals and Nationals came to office, there were more than 579,000 students enrolled at TAFE.⁸

In 2017, there were only 404,000 students enrolled at TAFE.⁹

The decrease in students studying at TAFE means:

- Fewer people are gaining skills and qualifications which would help them find a job; and
- Employers in growing sectors of the economy are unable to find skilled workers who could help them expand.

5 Dapto TAFE closure has ‘gutted a good campus’, MP says, Illawarra Mercury, 12 January 2016

6 Qurindi TAFE to be replaced with CBD shop front, ABC News, 11 April 2016; Bega TAFE campus needs to remain open, protesters say, Bega District News, 23 August 2018

7 TAFE to sell off 27 sites, close regional campuses, Sydney Morning Herald, 12 September 2015

8 NSW Budget 2013-2014, Budget Paper No. 3 (Budget Estimates), p. 3 - 11

9 Internal NSW Government Document



Labor's plan

Labor will make TAFE free for skills shortage courses

Michael Daley and Labor will make TAFE free for more than 600,000 students over the next decade.

600,000 free places will be offered for courses which are relevant to sectors experiencing shortages of skilled workers.

By providing free TAFE places in courses relevant to these sectors, Labor will:

- Help young people gain skills for their first job;
- Help people to retrain or gain new skills; and
- Ensure NSW has the skilled workers to drive the future growth of our economy.

By 2023, it is expected there will be:

- 85,000 more jobs in the health care and social assistance sectors in NSW compared to 2018; and
- 41,000 more jobs in the NSW construction industry compared to 2018.¹⁰

Free TAFE places

Labor will make TAFE free for skills shortage courses, starting with:

- Child care;
- Disability care;
- Aged care;
- Construction;
- Plumbing; and
- Electrical trades.

Nationally, it is expected that by 2023 there will be:

- 69,200 more jobs for aged care and disability care workers; and
- 27,600 more jobs for child carers.¹¹

Labor's additional TAFE places will help people obtain skills and qualifications relevant to these jobs.

¹⁰ 2018 Regional Projections – five years to May 2023, Labour Market Information Portal, Commonwealth Government

¹¹ Job Opportunities in the Future, Labour Market Information Portal, Commonwealth Government

Labor will guarantee TAFE's future

Labor will guarantee that at least 70 per cent of vocational education and training funding will be allocated to TAFE.

This will maintain TAFE's position as the leading provider of vocational education and training in NSW.

Recent scandals involving private training providers show the importance of TAFE as a public provider of vocational education and training.

TAFE has a demonstrated history of making vocational education and training accessible to all people, including people with a disability and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Labor's funding guarantee will ensure TAFE can continue this important work.

Under Labor's plan:

- TAFE will receive a minimum of 70 per cent of the vocational education and training budget in NSW; and
- 30 per cent of the vocational education and training budget will be contestable between TAFE and private providers.

Labor believes this balance will allow choice and competition while guaranteeing the vital services TAFE provides for the community.

Labor will crack down on rogue behaviour by private providers

In addition to capping the amount of contestable funding available for private providers, Labor will establish a Private Providers Investigations Unit. This Unit will:

- Investigate complaints by students;
- Ensure private providers are delivering courses at a high standard; and
- Prevent private providers preying on vulnerable people by pressuring them to enrol in courses which leave them with significant debts.



Labor will create opportunities to develop skills at work

Labor will require 20 per cent of work on major NSW Government construction projects be allocated to a combination of:

- Apprentices;
- Trainees;
- Indigenous Australians; and
- People who have been long term unemployed.

Labor's plan will:

- Create more opportunities for apprentices and trainees; and
- Maximise the benefits of public infrastructure investments by creating opportunities for people to develop their skills.

There are half as many apprentices and trainees in NSW than when the Liberals and Nationals came to office in 2011.

Year	Apprentices and Trainees in NSW ¹²
2011	79,960
2012	81,175
2013	58,740
2014	40,815
2015	35,630
2016	35,600
2017	35,995
TOTAL	- 43,965

¹² Commencements of apprentices and trainees in NSW (trade and non-trade), Data visualisation, National Centre for Vocational Education Research

Labor's plan for TAFE will help more people learn skills and find a job.



Labor

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