

Only one shot

Victorians will now get only one shot at a government-assisted TAFE place once they turn 20 years of age, unless they keep skilling up.

Yet Gen X and Y are expected to change career an average of 5 times or more in their working lives.

Undertaking a VET course while in school

can have a huge financial implication for a person once they turn 20. Secondary school students now need to be exceptionally careful about their choices or face a costly financial burden later.

What if you take the wrong course?

What if you graduate and hate your job?

What if you change your mind?

The public system is being privatised

This policy effectively privatises the public TAFE system. It places the TAFE system in competition with private education providers, undermining the quality of education at TAFE.

The Government now requires public TAFE institutes and for-profit private training providers to compete for each and every student's enrolment.

Students who are eligible for a government-subsidised place can enrol at any training provider and will carry their subsidy with them. The experiences of many international

students and the quality of courses at private providers reveal what happens when dollars drive the system.

An open market for enrolments will reduce the range of courses available; low-cost private providers will cherry pick the most popular and cheapest to run. Resource-intensive and less popular courses will disappear.

This will be particularly devastating for regional TAFEs. And all so the Government doesn't have to fund public education.

Want to know more?

These changes are bad for Victoria — and not enough people know about them. If you want to find out more, or add your voice to the campaign to axe these changes, go to the TAFE 4 All campaign website:

www.tafe4all.org.au



Thinking of going to TAFE?

You need to know how the Victorian Government's changes to TAFE will affect you.



TAFE4ALL

The Victorian Government is making major changes to the TAFE system:

- Fees are going up for many courses
- Concession fees are being abolished or hiked up
- New loans will leave students in debt
- Students get only one shot at a government-supported place
- Funding changes mean TAFE is effectively being privatised.

**TAFE IS GREAT —
but can YOU
afford it?**

Full fee paying students

A full fee paying place refers to any TAFE course where the student pays the full cost of their tuition.

Under this policy, many potential students are, for the first time ever, ineligible for a government-supported place in TAFE, unless they're taking a higher qualification than they already possess. They will pay full fees like international students — often more than \$10,000.

Case study 1

FROM SCHOOL TO WORK TO TAFE

A secondary student achieves Certificate 3 in Hospitality and leaves school this year to work in the industry. In their early 20s, they decide to change career to engineering. This requires a Certificate 3 in engineering before progressing to a higher level qualification. They must pay full fees for this course.

Case study 2

FROM SCHOOL TO UNI TO TAFE

A secondary student goes to university, graduates with a degree at age 22, and requires further training to broaden skill and knowledge base to get employment.

That student is now no longer entitled to any government-assisted place at TAFE and must pay thousands of dollars for their study — adding to an already hefty uni debt.

Full fees are set by the TAFE or training provider. Below are some examples of full fees being charged:

Diploma of Engineering Technology	\$9,000
Diploma of Community Welfare Work	\$8,475
Advanced Diploma Computer Systems Engineering	\$19,400
Advanced Diploma of Tourism	\$18,150
Advanced Diploma of Building Design and Project Administration	\$16,700

Government-supported courses

The Government provides some financial support for students who have no previous TAFE or VET qualifications, or are aged under 20, or are taking a higher qualification than they already possess.

For these courses, the government sets the fees — and these fees are going up dramatically.

DIPLOMAS AND ADVANCED DIPLOMAS

	Annual fee	% increase
Jan 2009	\$877	-
2010	\$2,000	128%
2012	\$2,500	185%

Fees will almost triple by 2012 for government-supported diploma and advanced diploma students. Some 50,000 students enrol in these Victorian TAFE courses each year.

Over one-third of all Yr 12 students go on to study at TAFE.

From January 2010 fee increases will hit these students — and keep going up.

The Government has also abolished concessions for these students. As many as 40% of students used to pay just \$55 a course — now they'll pay \$2000 plus. If you can't afford it, the Government says take out a loan.

CERTIFICATE III AND IV COURSES

	Annual fee	% increase
Jan 2009	\$877	-
2010	\$1,000	14%
2011	\$1,250	43%

Fees will increase by over 40% by 2011 for government supported places and it's the Government's intention to abolish concessions.

CERTIFICATE I AND II COURSES

Fees for part-time students are going up. For the few who take these courses full time, maximum annual fees will fall by \$2 from January 2010 to \$875.

TRAINEES AND APPRENTICES

Fees have not been guaranteed after 2010 — it's the Government's intention to put these fees up and abolish concessions.

Case study

Financially disadvantaged secondary student gains a Certificate III in IT through VET in Schools. They enrol in TAFE on a two-year advanced diploma in Computer Systems Engineering. Currently they qualify for the concessionary rate.

LAST YEAR Fees: \$55 pa. Final debt: zero.
NEXT YEAR Fees: \$2000 pa. Final debt: **\$4000.**