



Think education is expensive now? Premier Brumby plans to increase TAFE fees by up to 160%

The Victorian Government plans to dramatically increase the cost of vocational education and training for Victorian students from July 1. They call it “market prices” and say students won’t value their education unless they pay more for it. But in reality, the State Government is shifting the cost of education to those who can least afford it.

Secondary school students will be hardest hit by these changes.

These changes will effectively privatise the public TAFE education system and reduce access to TAFE and VET courses. Victoria’s existing skills shortage will only get worse if people cannot afford the education and training our economy needs.

***We can’t afford to put TAFE and VET courses out of reach.
But time is running out.***

What John Brumby's changes mean for Victorian students

- **Higher fees:** In July 2009, enrolment fees for diplomas and advanced diplomas will rise from \$950 to \$1500 per year, and to \$2,500 by 2012 — up by 160 per cent.
- **Bigger debts:** University-style loans will be introduced, leaving Victorian TAFE students with huge debts to pay off in the future.
- **No concessions:** The current annual concession rate of \$55 will be abolished and fees will immediately increase to \$1,500, affecting thousands of TAFE students.
- **Retraining out of reach:** Students who already have a degree or diploma will pay the full cost of further training at the same or lower level — likely to be around \$10,000 per qualification.
- **More to come:** Apprenticeships will be hit too, with the fee increases expected to be extended to all qualifications.
- **Bottom line:** John Brumby is pricing too many people out of tomorrow's economy.

Help the AEU make education available for all Victorians

A highly-skilled workforce benefits all Victorians. So add your voice to the call for a real investment in Victoria's TAFE system, not shifting the cost of education to those who can least afford it.

Email the following people:

- Premier of Victoria, John Brumby at john.brumby@parliament.vic.gov.au
- Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation, Jacinta Allan at jacinta.allan@parliament.vic.gov.au
- And visit www.tafe4all.org.au to learn more and sign our petition.

