PETITION

To the Legislative Assembly of Victoria,
The Petition of certain citizens of the state of Victoria draws to the attention of the House the negative impact of the Government's reforms on the provision of TAFE and VET education through the "Securing Jobs for your Future: Skills for Victoria" initiative.

The reforms will:
- Increase fees for some courses by up to 160%;
- Introduce a university-style loans scheme that will leave many students with financially crippling debts;
- Abolish the concession status for many students with fees increasing from $55 to $1,500;
- Deliver more public money to for-profit private training organisations at the expense of public TAFEs; and
- Shift the cost of education by reducing the Government's support for students from 88% to 60%.

These reforms will most adversely affect those students from lower socio-economic backgrounds, and rural and indigenous students – those who can least afford to be discouraged from further education and training.

The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Assembly of Victoria pass a motion that calls on the Government to abandon plans that will effectively privatise the public TAFE system and increase the cost of TAFE and VET, pricing too many Victorians out of vocational education. Moreover, the motion should seek to commit the Government to provide adequate resources to enable all who wish to enrol in TAFE/VET to do so at little or no cost with a view to tackling the current skills shortage and increasing the numbers of Victorians with post-school qualifications.

Name	Address	Email	Signature

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