



## Minister for Training and Skills

The Hon. Steve Herbert, MP

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Dr Jennifer Strauss AM  
2/12 Tollington Ave  
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Dear Dr Strauss

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Graduate Women Victoria, regarding the TAFE Rescue Fund and the future of vocational training.

As you note, the Victorian Government has made a strong start in providing urgently needed funding to support the TAFE system. The Government's \$320 million TAFE Rescue Fund is already flowing to TAFEs in need. An advance of \$20 million has been allocated across SuniTAFE, GOTAFE, South West TAFE, William Angliss Institute, Melbourne Polytechnic and Federation Training.

In addition, the Victorian Government is committed to rebuilding faith in the quality of training delivery.

Victoria has progressively tightened its contracts with providers to ban the use of incentives for enrolment, and to reduce the risk of inappropriate government funded training. We are taking a range of contract compliance actions regarding the practice and behaviour of several Registered Training Organisations.

Further, on 20 February this year I announced a Review of Quality Assurance in Victoria's VET System that will analyse existing processes and procedures, and recommend a new, risk based, best practice framework designed to ensure all training providers that deliver government-funded training meet quality standards. The Review of Quality Assurance will include consultations with targeted industry and employer groups, unions and peak bodies representing the state's training providers in coming weeks, with a final report due in April.

Improving quality is a shared responsibility with the Commonwealth Government. Commonwealth and State regulators both have a role in registering and auditing providers against national standards. I have discussed training quality issues with my Commonwealth counterpart, Senator Birmingham, Assistant Minister for Education and Training, and the Victorian Government welcomes recent Commonwealth actions designed to address the practices of unscrupulous training providers. These include introducing legislation to better support the Commonwealth regulator to take prompt action and the announcement that the

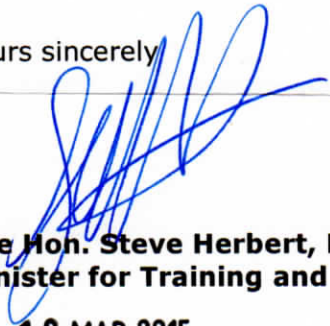
Australian National Audit Office will examine VET FEE-HELP Australia-wide after national allegations that some providers are misusing VET FEE-HELP.

Finally, I am pleased to confirm that the Victorian Government has launched the independent Review of VET Funding led by Mr Bruce Mackenzie. The Review has been asked to inquire into and report on how to improve the quality, stability and sustainability of Victorian training system. More information on the Review, including a copy of its Terms of Reference, can be found at: [www.vetfundingreview.vic.gov.au](http://www.vetfundingreview.vic.gov.au).

The website also includes information about the consultation process, which will provide people across Victoria with an avenue for sharing their views on strengths of the system and opportunities to improve funding and policy settings. I encourage your organisation to become involved in the consultation process for the Review.

If you would like further information, please contact Mr Nick Chiam, Acting Executive Director, Tertiary Education Policy and Strategic Projects, Higher Education and Skills Group, Department of Education and Training, on 9637 2651 or by email: [chiam.nick.c@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:chiam.nick.c@edumail.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**The Hon. Steve Herbert, MP  
Minister for Training and Skills**

**13 MAR 2015**