The Victorian TAFE Association (VTA) 2012 Annual Conference, *TAFE Leading Skills Enrichment*, amused, provoked and inspired the audience. The Conference was held in the context of dramatic cuts to the Victorian TAFE system.

Brian Dawe, comedian/political commentator provided the amusement. He reprised some of his famous characters and drawing on his life story also reminded the dinner guests of the importance of nurturing students to unleash their potential.

The opening address by Kym Peake, Deputy Secretary Skills Victoria setting out the rationale and the anticipated outcomes for changes to the vocational education and training system in Victoria was one bookend of a day. The other was a panel of media commentators reflecting with dismay on the impact of these recent political decisions.

Deb Daly, Director-General, Training and Tertiary Education Queensland and Elaine Bensted, Chief Executive, SA provided insights into how Queensland and South Australia are handling their competitive training markets and into their pricing structures for courses (extraordinarily more different than those proposed in Victoria).

Delegates were inspired by the stories of how TAFE had shaped the career choices and opportunities of three Victorian TAFE award winners.

The measure of success of this conference was the level of supportive electronic and press coverage that followed. Well done.