



ABN: 39 070 265 734

TAFE Directors Australia  
National Secretariat  
Sydney Institute of TAFE NSW  
Turner Hall (Building B) – Ultimo College  
Cnr Mary Ann and Harris Streets  
Ultimo NSW 2007  
PO Box 707 Broadway NSW 2007  
Telephone 02 9217 3180  
Facsimile 02 9281 7335  
Website [www.tda.edu.au](http://www.tda.edu.au)

29 January 2010

Mr Jason Coutts  
Branch Manager  
Equity, Performance and Indigenous Branch  
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations  
P O Box 9880  
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Mr Coutts

Following my letter of 22 January this year, TDA has further considered the draft guidelines for the Australian Government's Higher Education Participation and Partnership Program (HEPPP) and wishes to recommend that the guidelines be amended as follows:

1. That at least one half of both the Participation and Partnership components of the HEPPP funds available in any calendar year be retained for grants made on the basis of proposals submitted by all categories of tertiary education providers, including non-university higher education and VET providers;
2. That, from 2012, the allocation of funds under all components of the HEPPP take into account the rate of improvement demonstrated by institutions in both participation and completion/continuation of students from low-SES backgrounds;
3. That the reporting requirements on the Partnership component of HEPPP funding be amended to give equal weight to arrangements with VET providers that provide tertiary preparation, or other relevant programs for low-SES students, particularly those who are early school leavers and and/or located in rural and regional Australia;
4. That, consistent with the Government's approach to managing the Education Infrastructure Fund, an independent advisory board be established to advise the Minister and make recommendations for grants to institutions under the HEPPP;
5. That the program be re-named the Tertiary Education Participation and Partnership Program (TEPPP).

TDA would welcome the opportunity to further discuss these issues with you.

Yours sincerely

Per:

**Pam Caven**  
A/Chief Executive Officer  
TAFE Directors Australia