



THE SENATE

SENATE RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Mr Martin Riordan
CEO
TAFE Directors Australia
National Secretariat, GPO Box 826
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Mr Riordan

Rural and regional access to secondary and tertiary education opportunities

I am writing to advise you that on 16 June 2009, the Senate referred the following matter to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee for inquiry:

An assessment of the adequacy of government measures to provide equitable access to secondary and post-secondary education opportunities to students from rural and regional communities attending metropolitan institutions, and metropolitan students attending regional universities or technical and further education (TAFE) colleges, with particular reference to:

- a. the financial impact on rural and regional students who are attending metropolitan secondary schools, universities or TAFE;
- b. the education alternatives for rural and regional students wanting to study in regional areas;
- c. the implications of current and proposed government measures on prospective students living in rural and regional areas;
- d. the short- and long-term impact of current and proposed government policies on regional university and TAFE college enrolments;
- e. the adequacy of government measures to provide for students who are required to leave home for secondary or post-secondary study;
- f. the educational needs of rural and regional students;
- g. the impact of government measures and proposals on rural and regional communities; and
- h. other related matters.

The Committee invites you to make a submission addressing all or some of these issues. The closing date for submissions is **Friday, 7 August 2009**.

The Committee encourages the lodgement of submissions in electronic form. Submissions can be lodged via the Online Submission System which can be accessed at: <https://senate.aph.gov.au/submissions> or can be sent by email to rrat.sen@aph.gov.au, or by post to:

Committee Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Please note that submissions become Committee documents and are only made public after a decision by the Committee. Persons making submissions must not release them without the Committee's prior approval. Submissions are covered by parliamentary privilege but the unauthorised release of them is not.

Please ensure that any submissions or attachments you wish to remain confidential are clearly marked as such. A covering letter, clearly outlining the specific reasons for requesting confidentiality, should also be attached to the submission. Please contact the Secretariat if you require further advice on any issues with regard to confidentiality.

For further information about the inquiry see http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/rrat_ctte/rural_and_regional_education/index.htm or phone (02) 6277 3511.

Yours sincerely,



Ann Palmer
Principal Research Officer

6 July 2009