

Federal Labor commits to establish National Inquiry into Post-Secondary Education

February 2018

On Friday 23 February 2018 Shadow Minister for Education and Training, Tanya Plibersek, announced a Shorten Labor Government will convene the National Inquiry into Post-Secondary Education within its first 100 days. It will be the first of its kind to examine all aspects of the vocational and higher education systems concurrently.

The Inquiry will outline a new approach to engrain TAFE as a crucial cog in Australia's education and economic spheres, with a desire to ensure TAFE is an equally attractive option to school-leavers as university.

Responding to falling TAFE enrolments and issues surrounding Vocational Education and Training (VET) providers, the Inquiry will aim to develop a tertiary education system with high-quality vocational education at its core.

Plibersek stressed the importance of universities and TAFEs collaborating to achieve shared goals. She also acknowledged a fundamental difference between the two streams of tertiary education – universities being drivers of research and TAFEs the providers of vital skills.

The importance of a strong pipeline of well-trained graduates to the competitiveness of Australian businesses was underscored, particularly given the significant investments made in vocational education by Australia's regional neighbours.

Timeframe and structure

Over the coming weeks Federal Labor will convene a panel of experts, sector leaders, union and business representatives to advise on the scope and terms of the Inquiry.

The Inquiry will be conducted within existing departmental resources.

Further information

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