



For immediate release

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## **NUS Support Andrews Labor Government Announcement for Free TAFE Tuition**

The National Union of Students welcomes the Victorian Government's proposal to scrap TAFE tuition fees for Victorian students. Since the Federal Liberal Government was elected in 2013 the TAFE system has been neglected and there has been a significant decrease in quality, disincentivising students from training through Australia's TAFE system.

"Across the country, TAFE is in crisis - the failure of sixteen randomly selected TAFE SA courses to pass a regulatory audit is just an example how the Federal Government's inactivity in the sector has failed Australians" said NUS National President, Mark Pace.

The National Union of Students further advocates reviewing the impact of private providers in the sector which target and exploit vulnerable and prospective students.

"We have heard from students who have contacted NUS with stories about recruiters from dodgy private providers pressuring prospective students into enrolling in courses that simply do not meet the quality standards the Australian public have of the sector".

Free tuition is growing increasingly popular across the world, with major parties in the United Kingdom and New Zealand incorporating free education as major election policy.

"Australia is falling behind - further education is growing increasingly essential to develop a highly skilled workforce which will provide significant economic growth in Australia. It's time for the Federal Government to stop irresponsible spending and invest where it counts the most".

"NUS congratulates the Andrews Labor Government on taking the first step towards free tuition, and encourages state and federal politicians to employ free education in their parties policies".

By allowing students to have access to TAFE tuition-free we are establishing a productive and educated nation.

For further comment;

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