

## TAFE Poll 2009 – Victoria

Based on 1,001 interviews – conducted 10-15 July 2009

Q1. TAFE colleges provide vocational and further education for 1.7 million Australians each year. Compared to universities, TAFE's conduct more practical and vocationally oriented education and training programs.

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements.

	<b>Total agree</b>	<b>Total disagree</b>	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
A well-funded TAFE system is essential to ensure every Australian has the opportunity to access quality vocational and further education	<b>94%</b>	<b>2%</b>	49%	45%	2%	*	3%
TAFE fees need to be kept low to ensure all Australians have access to training and education	<b>93%</b>	<b>3%</b>	57%	36%	3%	*	3%
Increased funding for TAFE's is essential to address Australia's skills shortage	<b>91%</b>	<b>5%</b>	47%	44%	4%	1%	4%
TAFE's help to reduce unemployment because they allow people to get new skills and change careers or return to the workforce	<b>92%</b>	<b>4%</b>	41%	51%	3%	1%	4%
Funding for TAFE needs to be increased in the global economic crisis to ensure people who lose their jobs can access training and education	<b>88%</b>	<b>7%</b>	42%	46%	6%	1%	5%

Q2. The State Labor Government has recently introduced a number of changes to the TAFE system. These changes include fee increases for diplomas and advanced diplomas from \$950 to \$2,500 over the next few years, a HECS style student loan scheme, abolishing the low concession rate for low income students for some courses and making students who already have a degree or diploma pay the full cost of further training which could be over \$10,000. Have you heard anything about these changes?

Yes	20%
No	68%
Not sure	12%

Q3. Do you support or oppose increasing fees for TAFE diplomas and advanced diplomas from \$950 to \$2,500 over the next few years?

<b>Total support</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Total oppose</b>	<b>77%</b>
Strongly support	3%
Support	11%
Oppose	34%
Strongly oppose	43%
Don't know	8%

Q4. Do you support or oppose abolishing the current annual concession rate of \$55 for low income students?

<b>Total support</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>Total oppose</b>	<b>62%</b>
Strongly support	7%
Support	17%
Oppose	33%
Strongly oppose	29%
Don't know	14%

Q5. Do you support or oppose making students who already have a degree or diploma pay the full cost of TAFE training, which could be over \$10,000?

<b>Total support</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Total oppose</b>	<b>70%</b>
Strongly support	3%
Support	16%
Oppose	38%
Strongly oppose	32%
Don't know	11%

Q6. The State Government says that these changes will provide more funding and students places for TAFE and more opportunities for people to access education and training. The Australian Education Union says Government is simply shifting the cost of education to those who can least afford it and this will reduce access to TAFE courses for those who most need them. Which view do you agree with most?

The State Government	13%
The Australian Education Union	65%
Don't know	22%

Q7. Overall, do you support or oppose the State Government's changes to the TAFE system?

<b>Total support</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Total oppose</b>	<b>71%</b>
Strongly support	1%
Support	14%
Oppose	38%
Strongly oppose	33%
Don't know	13%

Q8. Do you think the Government's changes to the TAFE system will increase or decrease demand for TAFE courses or will they make no difference?

Increase demand	5%
Decrease demand	66%
Make no difference to demand	17%
Don't know	12%

Q9. Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements.

	<b>Total agree</b>	<b>Total disagree</b>	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Increasing TAFE student fees will limit the access to skills training and only make the skills crisis worse	<b>80%</b>	<b>14%</b>	34%	46%	12%	2%	7%
The State Government can increase TAFE funding without increasing fees	<b>77%</b>	<b>11%</b>	26%	51%	9%	2%	11%