



17 January 2025

Committee Secretary
Senate Education and Employment Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: eec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Senate and Education Employment Committee,

Inquiry into the Free TAFE Bill 2024 [Provisions]

Independent Schools Australia (ISA) welcomes this opportunity to provide a submission to the Senate Education and Employment Committee's inquiry into the Free TAFE Bill 2024 [Provisions].

ISA supports the government's initiative to make vocational education and training (VET) more accessible to students across the nation. However, ISA has significant concerns with the proposed Bill and believes more evaluation and consultation is required.

ISA does not believe that enshrining programs such as these into legislation is appropriate.

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The Independent school sector is a key contributor to VET and several Independent schools are RTOs themselves. Many Independent schools:

- provide vocational education services, training and assessment to their students, and to students of non-RTO schools.
- deliver VET and assessment to their students on behalf of external providers under an auspice arrangement.
- enable and support students to enrol in vocational courses.

been done to assess whether the Bill's scope is comprehensive enough to achieve its intended goals.

A thorough evaluation of current arrangements, transparency in communication about costs, and a student-centric support model is needed to support the development of a more effective and equitable VET system in Australia.

ISA looks forward to working with the government and other stakeholders to refine and implement policies that truly benefit our students and prepare them for successful careers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Catt', is written over a solid black rectangular redaction box.

Graham Catt

Chief Executive Officer