



MEDIA STATEMENT

Revised from Wednesday, 24 February 2016

TAFE ANNOUNCEMENT INSENSITIVE & UNPROFESSIONAL

- The CPSU/CSA contacted the minister in October 2015 asking to be consulted as a stakeholder as part of the training sector reform project
- The Minister responded in December stating that “I welcome your organisation’s contribution to the project given your unique position to provide a cross-sectoral perspective on behalf of the State’s union movement. You will be contacted in due course to provide input into the project as it progresses.”
- Follow up contact was not made by the Minister and the CPSU/CSA has only today been made aware of the Minister’s plans for TAFE colleges via the media
- CPSU/CSA Members perform a variety of important functions in TAFE colleges. Positions include (but are not limited to) Library Officers, Student Advisors, Customer Service staff, Administration, Academic Assistants, Career Counsellors, IT and Communications staff and a variety of Technicians.

Comments from Rikki Hendon, Branch Assistant Secretary of the CPSU/CSA

“The Minister promised that we, and our members, would be consulted as part of this reform process, but has today announced mass job cuts with no discussion or forewarning.

“It is deeply concerning that the new Deputy Premier can’t be trusted to keep her word.

“It is insensitive and unprofessional of Liza Harvey to use the media to tell TAFE staff that they may be jobless come April.

“Make no mistake – these are mass job cuts, and the wealth of knowledge and expertise that will leave the TAFE system as a result can only have only have a negative impact on service delivery.

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“Our members perform a variety of extremely important functions in TAFE colleges and we are deeply concerned that students and lecturers will be without crucial support as a result of these cuts.

“We call on the Minister to halt the proposed changes and consult with our members to fully understand the impact this will have on the quality of TAFE education in WA.”

Additional comments as at Friday, 26 February 2016

“This announcement is going to dramatically affect the lives of 230 people and their families - and right now all TAFE staff are in limbo and have no idea what their futures hold.

“We still do not know if they have already earmarked certain positions for redundancy and what their plans are to consult with staff.

“Minister Liza Harvey did not fulfil her promise to consult with our members in the development of the Training Sector Reform Project, and we were informed by her office today that she is refusing to meet with us to discuss the implications of cutting hundreds of jobs for the quality of service to TAFE students.

“The Minister says these changes will benefit students, but has reached this conclusion without consulting with our members who work in a wide variety of roles in TAFEs so we're concerned that she is making the decision to cut hundreds of jobs from the TAFEs without fully understanding the consequences.

FOR COMMENT:

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