



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **TAFE calls on states and Commonwealth to ensure adequate funding following abolition of Education Investment Fund**

The TAFE sector has called upon the states and the Commonwealth to work cooperatively to provide much-needed TAFE funding in the wake of the abolition of the \$4 billion Education Investment Fund (EIF).

Parliament agreed yesterday to scrap the fund which was established in 2009 and designed to provide capital funding to help upgrade TAFEs and universities.

The CEO of TAFE Directors Australia Craig Robertson said the decision was disappointing, but that it made more urgent the need to ensure that adequate funding was available to help upgrade TAFE campuses around the country.

“TAFE facilities are under extraordinary pressure and our skills needs are greater than ever. It is very important that we continue to make an economic investment in the country’s TAFEs so that we can meet growing skills needs,” he said.

The abolition of the EIF will see approximately \$4 billion transferred to disaster relief. The government has agreed to commit \$50 million to a TAFE revitalisation fund that it expects will be matched by the states.

“We strongly urge the states to commit to matching this funding so that vital infrastructure works can continue and TAFE facilities, especially in regional and rural areas, can be brought to a world class standard,” Mr Robertson said.

The EIF was established in 2009 to provide dedicated ongoing capital funding for tertiary education and research infrastructure.

“We fully support the priority given to disaster funding but that shouldn’t be at the expense of funding for TAFE,” Mr Robertson said.

He applauded the efforts of Senators and MPs who threw their support behind the needs of TAFE students, teachers and facilities.

The TAFE sector is committed to the idea of an investment vehicle so TAFEs and universities can maintain world class standards

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TAFE Directors Australia is the peak national body representing 28 TAFE institutes, including six dual sector universities with TAFE divisions.