

**Submission  
No 153**

**INQUIRY INTO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND  
TRAINING IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Miss Natasha Gee

**Date received:** 13/08/2015

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I attended my local public school and achieved 18.25 for my TER as I was bringing up my younger siblings and rarely studied. My mother was a single parent and went out to the RSL club every night straight after work until 10:30pm.

I worked at Coles the year after my HSC and there I realised my mislaid potential. I enrolled at Seaforth TAFE to sit my HSC again. I achieved 73.15 which was enough to get into the Bachelor of Education course at Sydney University. I was the first member of my family to go to University.

I understand now that the HSC course is no longer available to young people on the Northern Beaches and that the closest TAFE venue is Ultimo. If this was the case when I needed a second chance, I know I would NOT have caught a bus into the city (45 mins) and then another bus to Ultimo (25 mins) everyday. I did this for Uni and I know that the hours that I studied for the HSC at the TAFE institute were more intense than the Uni classes I attended. In addition to the 8.5 hour days at TAFE, I would return home (30 mins) to study and extra 3-4 hours per night. Some young people do not have the positive and safe external influences that they need to achieve in high school, TAFE used to be an affordable second chance opportunity to those in the greatest need.