



New South Wales Teachers Federation
a branch of the Australian Education Union

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NSW TEACHERS FEDERATION MEDIA RELEASE

BAIRD GOVERNMENT MUST GUARANTEE NEW TAFE IT SYSTEM WORKS PROPERLY — AND RECOGNISE TEACHERS' VALUE

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The NSW Government's announcement that a new TAFE IT system will be designed to replace the failed and expensive EBS system will be a relief to TAFE staff across the state.

NSW Teachers Federation President Maurie Mulheron said the troubled TAFE IT system had made it difficult for staff to enrol students and enter related data.

“This has been a bungle of monumental proportions and our members have been trying to deliver quality teaching and learning in the midst of an IT disaster,” Mr Mulheron said.

“Compounding that has been the new and complex schedule of student fees introduced under the NSW Government's 'Smart and Skilled' model that the computer system was unable to accurately process,” he said.

Mr Mulheron said it was only the sheer goodwill and expertise of TAFE teachers that kept TAFE operational.

“Teachers struggled to cope with the failed computer system during the 18 month crisis period by working through their holidays and after hours, to make sure students weren't disadvantaged.”

“These same teachers are being denied a salary increase by the Government for an Enterprise Agreement that expired in July last year,” Mr Mulheron said.

“We are calling on Skills Minister John Barilaro to repay the goodwill of TAFE teachers and grant them an immediate 2.5 per cent wage increase without any further attacks on their working conditions.”

Mr Mulheron said nobody wanted a repeat of the chaos caused by a dysfunctional IT system and it was important that the new system was properly road tested and guaranteed to be fully operational before being rolled out.

“But the underlying problem for the TAFE system will not be addressed merely by a new IT system. What has to be scrapped is the contestable funding model that the Baird Government’s ‘Smart and Skilled’ policy introduced.”

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