



Inquiry seeks community input on TAFE access for learners with disability

A new public inquiry into access to TAFE for learners with disability is inviting community members to share their views and experiences.

The Victorian Legislative Assembly's Economy and Infrastructure Committee is examining the accessibility of TAFE for learners with disability and how their experience of TAFE can be improved.

"We know many young people with disability have post-school aspirations but education participation rates suggest they face barriers to achieving their goals," said Committee Chair John Eren.

"All people, whatever their ability, should be able to access further education and have a positive learning experience," he added.

Australians with disability have lower rates of Year 12 completion and employment than those without disability. Adequate support to continue their studies and secure meaningful employment will help improve the financial independence and wellbeing of people with disability.

"We want to find out the types of barriers learners with disability face when trying to enrol and participate in TAFE and what resources and support they need to overcome these barriers," Mr Eren said.

"We want to hear from both current and past students as well as learners with disability who are considering TAFE or have considered it in the past.

"We're also keen to hear from TAFE institutes and teachers, parents, disability advocacy groups, youth organisations and social service organisations."

The Committee will be assessing the effectiveness of current government and TAFE policies as well as strategies used in Victoria and interstate to increase the participation of learners with disability in TAFE.

It will also examine the types of training and support Victorian TAFE teachers need to maximise the learning experiences of students with disability.

In this inquiry, the Committee is defining TAFE as Victoria's 12 TAFE institutes and four Victorian dual-sector universities.

Public submissions to the inquiry are open until 16 October 2020. For more information on the inquiry, including how to make a submission, go to the Committee's [website](#).

Issued: 21 August 2020