

## **Inquiry into the Cairns TAFE Upgrade Project**

**Submission No:** 1  
**Submitted by:** Robert Heron  
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**Attachments:**

**Submitter Comments:**

**Submitter Recommendations:**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Education, Employment and Training Committee](#)  
**Subject:** submission: Inquiry into the Cairns TAFE Upgrade Project & Inquiry into the delivery of VET in regional, rural and remote Queensland  
**Date:** Thursday, 24 November 2022 1:12:01 AM

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To the committee,

I make a joint submission to both inquiries, submission: Inquiry into the Cairns TAFE Upgrade Project & Inquiry into the delivery of VET in regional, rural and remote Queensland. I focus on the following criteria. The actual suitability of the works in meeting the needs and in achieving the stated purpose of the works. the major barriers to the provision of localised and place-based VET, and priority areas and cohorts in Queensland. Existing programs that might assist in reducing barriers or supporting priority cohorts in accessing localised and place-based VET.

I have a local cairns news story to share. The Archbishop of Canterbury visited recently to much fanfare. The radio was playing stories of all the good charitable works going on in the city. then he left as quickly as arrived and the faux fascades blew over with a fart. What came next was a massive blow in of itinerant indigenous people expecting to find what naughty journalists had reported. This whole event just crushed hope, left a trail of carnage and destruction and led people astray. I won't lie. I did get a free hot chocolate out of it.

I see a woman around town. She's indigenous, has one leg, gets around on crutches, sleeps in the street, very friendly. I'm thinking about how the new TAFE is going to help her. A prosthetic would make it much easier to move a hot pot of soup around a busy kitchen or maintain her balance while cutting someone's hair. The prerequisite services and conditions aren't attainable.

Rural adult educational institutions should have accommodations for persons facing significant barriers and assistance to attain their educational goals. There is an expectation that all the cards magically fall into place. A safety net they call it. It's more like playing pickup 52 in a strong gale. Cairns is the most northern city or regional service centre in Queensland. You know there are people from severely disadvantaged backgrounds coming here. Where are they going to stay while they study? How are they going to access healthcare or navigate access to NDIS supports? Particularly in regards to the many young homeless indigenous women in Cairns, could a serviced residential facility be built in the TAFE campus to meet the complex needs of disadvantaged indigenous women and sistergirls as they attempt to navigate entry to a merchantable trade?

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