

VTA State Conference 2012 TAFE Leading Skills Enrichment

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TAFE's viability threatened

- The promise of markets
 - Greater responsiveness
 - Flows to where it is needed
 - Increase participation, skills
 - Less regulation & bureaucracy



- Reality is different
 - Exponential increases in areas where it is not needed
 - More regulation not less
 - Shonky quality, rent-seeking, millions of dollars profit for privates in cheap to run, high volume programs
 - Massive redistribution of the market towards private providers – now have 44% of students, 40% enrolments – TAFE has 48% of enrolments

Difference in market settings in VET & HE – or why it is a race to the bottom in VET

	VET	HE
Providers	Education doesn't have to be main purpose	Education must be main purpose
No. of providers	About 5000	About 174
Nature of market	Price	Positional goods
Product	Must be the same	Different, but isomorphic
Costs for entry	Low	High
Quality framework	Laughable	Rigorous
Institutional influence	Low	High – part of social elites
Public funding	For private providers	Only public universities
IC loans	Partially implemented	Fully implemented
Funded places	varies	Uncapped u/g places

Future of diplomas & dual-sectors

- Diplomas declining in importance as labour market qualification, increasing as equity qualification
- Diplomas cannibalised by uncapped places in universities
- Fees will rise in TAFE
- Apparent advantage of the dual-sectors, but will lead to demise of model
- TAFE - to become residual?



Bob Dylan – Trying to get to heaven

- When you think that you have lost everything
- You find out you can always loose a little more...
- Trying to get to heaven before they close the door

