



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## CAUTION NEEDED IN TAFE DISCUSSION FOR VCA: NTEU

The National Tertiary Education Union today urged caution around discussions that a TAFE stream be introduced into the Victorian College of the Arts and Music.

“The Victorian College of the Arts and Music is internationally renowned for offering higher education degrees in all forms of arts practice. While TAFE may have a limited role, it won't solve a funding shortfall,” said NTEU Secretary Matthew McGowan.

“On a practical level, the per-student funding offered by the new TAFE system is too low to ensure that the quality training and teaching continues at current levels.”

The NTEU estimates that currently there is approximately \$20,400 per student in funding from the Federal Government, donations and full-fee paying students. This dropped from \$28,000 in 2004 and is well below the per-student funding of \$58,000 provided to NIDA.

“The TAFE funding formula in Victoria just can't provide the money needed to run some of the more expensive courses and subjects on offer at the College,” said Mr McGowan.

“There are many TAFEs that already offer specialised arts-related courses and qualifications, so there is a question as to how TAFE offerings from VCAM would impact enrolments at other TAFE institutions.

“If the State Government intends to increase the number of international full-fee paying students, they should be wary about making any decision that could compromise the elite practice-based training offered at VCAM,” he said.

### **For more information**

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