

TAFE Symposium

10 YEARS OF CONTESTABLE FUNDING

Friday 18 March 2022



TAFE
= **a positive future**

- + *for students*
- + *for teachers*
- + *for the community*
- + *for the economy*

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TAFE Symposium – 10 years of contestable funding

2022 is the 10th anniversary of the signing of the 2012 National Agreement on Skills and Workforce Development which saw the explicit requirement for the states and territories to make VET funding contestable as a condition of access to Commonwealth funds.

This symposium, organised by the Centre for Public Education Research (CPER), will examine the impact of the 2012 Agreement on the TAFE system, and TAFE students and teachers in the context of the history of so-called “market reforms” of TAFE.

It will revisit the VET FEE Help debacle, review the massive shift in government funds to private for-profit providers, and interrogate what this means for young people in Australia.

It will also re-visit some of the crucial questions which still need to be addressed in order for Australia to rebuild its TAFE system, as well as outline the current campaign.

PROGRAM	FRIDAY 18 MARCH 2022	
8:30 – 9:00	Registration	
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome and Announcements	Mel Smith (Deputy Secretary, NSWTF)
	Acknowledgement of Country	Russell Honnery (Aboriginal Education Coordinator, NSWTF)
9:15 – 9:30	Introduction	Maurie Mulheron (Director, CPER)
9:30 – 10:15	10 Years On: The National Agreement on Skills and Workforce Development	Pat Forward (Former AEU Federal TAFE Secretary)
10:15 – 10:45	Current TAFE Campaign	Maxine Sharkey (General Secretary, NSWTF and current AEU Federal TAFE Secretary)
10:45 – 11:00	Closing remarks	Angelo Gavrielatos (President, NSWTF)
11:00	MORNING TEA	
	Provided by NSW Teachers Federation	

Speakers



Pat Forward

Pat Forward taught in TAFE colleges across Melbourne since the mid-eighties. She was a local delegate at her colleges for the TTUV, the FTUV and the AEU Victorian Branch. She worked in the AEU Federal Office between 2005 and 2017, and represented the AEU on a number of national bodies during that time. She previously worked as an organiser for the CPA and an administrator for the Popular Theatre Troupe in Queensland during the 1970s, and at the Coalition Against Poverty and Unemployment, and the Trade Union Unemployment Centre in Melbourne.



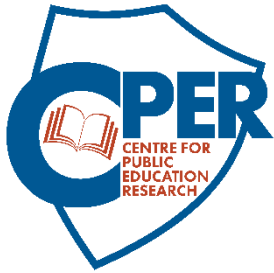
Maxine Sharkey

Maxine Sharkey is the Australian Education Union Federal TAFE Secretary and NSW Teachers Federation General Secretary. Before being elected as a Union official, Maxine was a Teacher of Community Services at TAFE NSW, where she taught and mentored a generation of Youth Workers and Welfare Workers. Prior to teaching, Maxine worked with young people and families and as a Community Worker in the disability sector.



Angelo Gavrielatos

Angelo Gavrielatos is the President of the NSW Teachers Federation. Prior to his election, Angelo led Educational International's (EI) Global Response to the growing commercialisation and privatisation of education. EI is the global union federation representing teachers and other education workers globally. Angelo was the Federal President of the Australian Education Union (AEU) for 7 years prior to commencing work with EI during which time, among other areas of work, he led the national Gonski schools funding campaign. Prior to his election as Federal President of the AEU, Angelo was the Senior Vice and Deputy President of the NSW Teachers Federation between 2002 and 2008. He started his career as a secondary teacher in Green Valley in South-West Sydney in 1987.



About the Centre for Public Education Research

The Centre for Public Education Research (CPER) was established to commission, disseminate, and publish independent academic research pertaining to public education; in particular, research that may be relevant to those working in the sectors of early childhood education, public schools, and Technical and Further Education (TAFE).

CPER's work will reflect more broadly the values of public education, initiate research that supports the teaching profession, and alert the profession to critical and emerging issues.

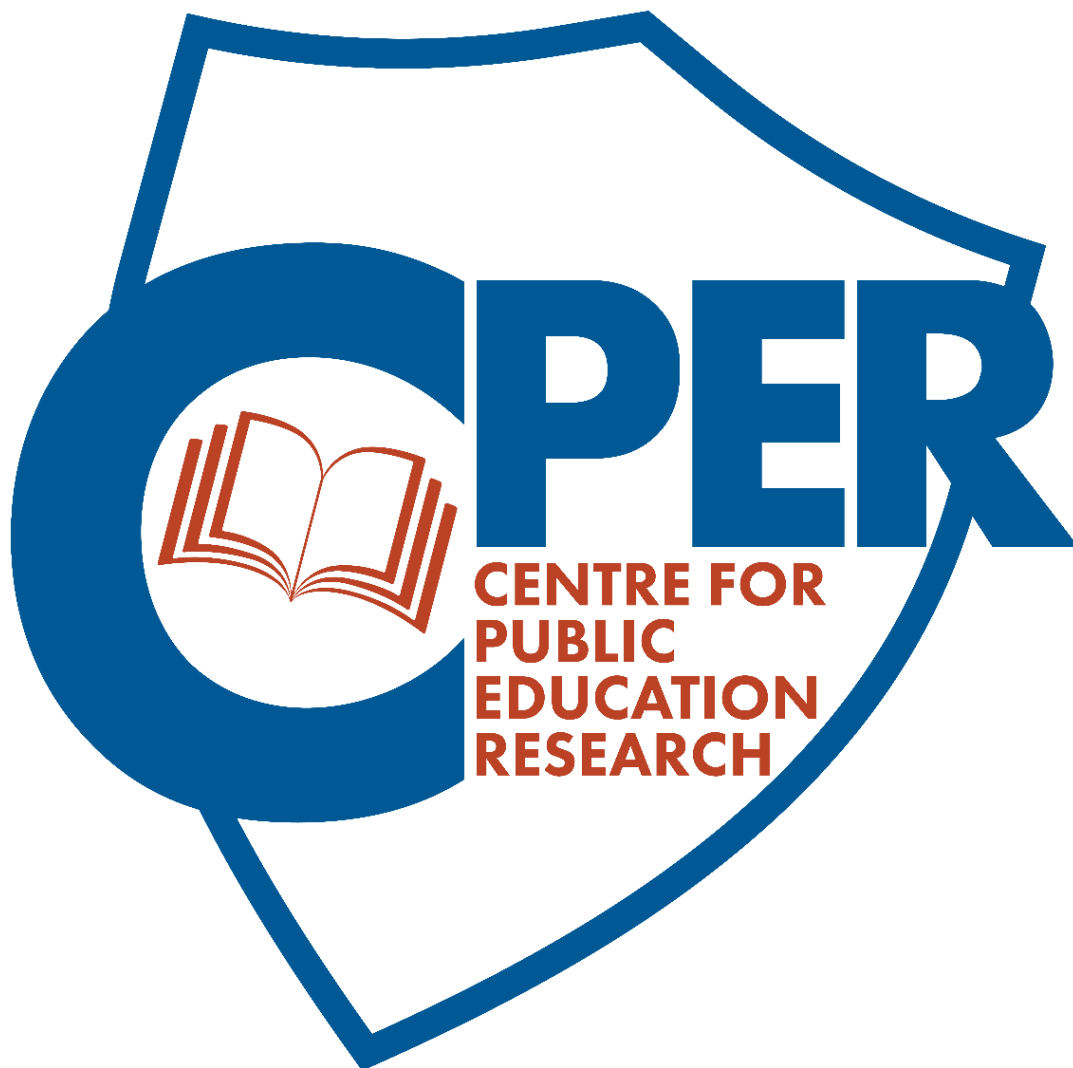
As well as publishing existing research and commissioning new research, the Centre will organise seminars, public forums, and professional conferences on a range of contemporary education issues.

For more information visit www.cper.edu.au



Maurie Mulheron

Maurie was President of the NSW Teachers Federation (NSWTF) from 2012 after 34 years as a public school teacher and principal. He held that position until January 2020 leading the union's many campaigns. Maurie represented the NSWTF on the Federal Executive of the Australian Education Union (AEU) for twenty years. From 2015-2020, he was Deputy Federal President of the AEU. Maurie was active in Education International's Global Response Network which coordinated international opposition to the growing commercialisation of education. Maurie is currently the Director of the Centre for Public Education Research (CPER).



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