

## Save TasTAFE's Laboratory Technology Courses



### The issue

To:

**The Honourable Jeremy Rockliff, Premier of Tasmania**  
**The Honourable Felix Ellis, Minister for Skills & Jobs**  
**TasTAFE Board and Executive Leadership Team**

We call on the Tasmanian Government and TasTAFE Board to **immediately reverse the decision to remove subsidised funding and thereby discontinue the Laboratory Technology courses** at TasTAFE.

For more than 30 years, these programs have been a **vital part of Tasmania's education and workforce pathway**, providing skilled laboratory technicians for **health, education, research, environmental, and manufacturing sectors**. The closure of these courses will have devastating consequences for:

- **Tasmania's economy**, which relies on a steady supply of qualified laboratory staff.
- **Health and medical testing**, where TasTAFE graduates play critical roles supporting hospitals and pathology laboratories.
- **Education and research**, where skilled technicians underpin the work of teachers, scientists, and students across the state.
- **Local employment opportunities**, with many graduates - including youth and those facing barriers to employment - securing stable, rewarding local jobs.
- **Skilled population growth**, supporting opportunities for migrants and international students to gain local qualifications and fill critical workforce shortages.
- **Women in STEM**, with around 73% of laboratory technicians being female, this course is a vital entry point for women pursuing science careers.

TasTAFE's Laboratory Technology team has consistently provided **high-quality, face-to-face training** in a fully equipped science laboratory. Students gain **broad, transferable practical skills** across multiple industries – training that **cannot be replicated** through online delivery, university undergraduate courses, or narrow, workplace-only learning models offered by private RTOs.

This decision not only undermines **Tasmania's 2025 Skills Plan**, which identifies health and science/technology as priority growth areas, but also sends a discouraging message to future students and employers about the state's commitment to high-quality vocational education.

We are deeply concerned about the **lack of consultation, transparency, and respect** shown to TasTAFE staff and students in this process. The closure represents a serious loss to Tasmania's skills base and long-term workforce capability.

We urge the Tasmanian Government and TasTAFE to:

1. **Suspend the decision to remove subsidised funding and thereby close the TasTAFE Laboratory Technology courses.**
2. **Engage in genuine consultation** with staff, students, industry, and unions to explore sustainable options for continuing delivery.
3. **Protect Tasmania's science and health workforce pathway** by ensuring ongoing VET opportunities for future laboratory professionals.

**Tasmania needs science. Tasmania needs skills. Tasmania needs TasTAFE Laboratory Technology**

Petition starter

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**Verified signatures**