

Australian Library and
Information Association

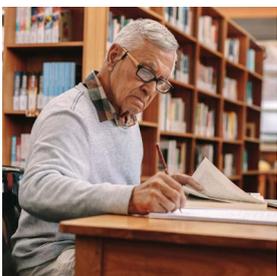
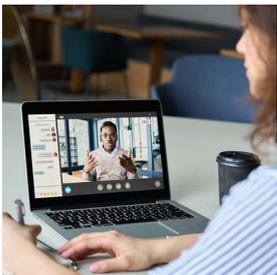
10 ways TAFE libraries improve the lives of students

There are 4,000 registered training organisations (RTOs) registered by the Australian Skills Quality Authority to provide nationally recognised VET training and qualifications. VET education is delivered by private RTOs and Australia's 59 TAFE institutions to more than 4 million students¹. The provision of library services depends on the type of courses offered and the resources needed by students and teachers.

In 1974, the landmark Kangan Report² stated, 'The Library Resource Centre has a major role in making unrestricted access to recurrent vocational education a practical reality. Just as the need has been seen to improve the libraries of the universities, the colleges of advanced education and the schools, so it must be seen in technical colleges.' The same is true today.

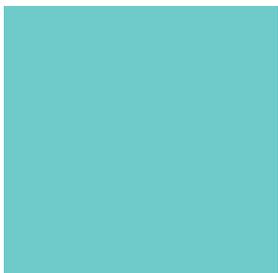
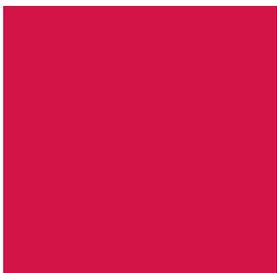
¹ <https://www.asqa.gov.au/about/vet-sector>

² <https://www.voced.edu.au/content/glossary-term-kangan-report>



SUPPORTING EVERY STUDENT

Library staff work alongside learning support officers, disability support officers, social workers and counsellors, to give every TAFE student – school leavers and mature students, from diverse and disadvantaged backgrounds – the best chance of success.





OPEN ALL HOURS

The physical library is a welcoming and familiar hub of student activity providing resources, spaces, technology, programs, services and expert help. Online, it is a go-to destination for resources 24/7.



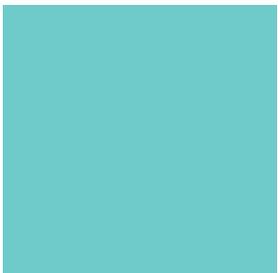
WELCOMING SPACES

The physical library is a dedicated space valued by all for solo study and group work, especially where space is at a premium at home. Open from early to late, library buildings are designed around the needs and behaviours of their users.



DIGITAL INCLUSION

Library staff undertake regular and extensive professional development to remain on top of the latest information technologies and to be able to pass on that learning to library users. Staff can assist students with everything from logging onto the internet via library PCs through to accessing complex electronic databases.



INDEPENDENT LEARNING

TAFE libraries enable both supported and independent self-paced and self-directed learning. Students have access to qualified librarians for support when needed and are surrounded by curricula related materials, whether onsite or online.



WIDENING HORIZONS

The library not only provides the specialist subject matter students need to complete their course work but also has collections to broaden the mind and encourage new perspectives.

COPYRIGHT

Staff make sure that the library works within Australian copyright legislation and conforms with the Statutory Education Licence. They also provide teachers and students with individual copyright advice.





BUSINESS EFFICIENCY

In some jurisdictions there is a central acquisitions team, in others TAFE library managers control significant collections budgets for learning materials. Library staff are skilled and experienced negotiators developing cost effective agreements with local and international suppliers.



RECRUITMENT, ENGAGEMENT AND RETENTION

In a highly competitive education market, attracting and retaining local and overseas students requires a combination of factors. A well-funded, well-resourced library staffed by qualified professionals is one of these.



A QUESTION OF EQUITY

RTO and TAFE libraries have a fraction of the budget and staffing levels of university libraries and there is a danger of short-changing these students. Library teams help equip students with skills which not only help them with their studies, but also contribute to their life skills and employability.

