

TasTAFE Laboratory Technician Courses

Ms JOHNSTON question to MINISTER for SKILLS and JOBS

A constituent of mine has raised serious concerns about the Government's cuts to TasTAFE certificate IV and diploma laboratory technician courses, the only non-university technical science qualifications in Tasmania. These courses train the technicians who underpin our pathology services, water and soil testing, and school science teaching. They aren't medically trained pathologists, but pathologists can't do their work without them. Cutting their only local training pathway means we'll soon be filling these roles interstate, with no Tasmanians entering the field.

TasTAFE's CEO has reportedly justified the cuts on the basis that these courses fall outside the health priority area. How does the Government reconcile that with the essential role technicians play across our health system? And given the lab equipment and teachers all remain, will the Government reinstate these courses beyond this year?