

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Access to TAFE for Learners with Disability

Mr. Peter HIRST

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Principal
Environmental Design

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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All Tafe campuses should be universally accessible and compliant with AS 1428 dictating detailed provisions for buildings & campuses to accommodate for people with mobility limitations.

I am an experienced architect with honors studies in Design for Disability Access and a background of expert witness work as well as designing universally accessible Community Buildings. My company GHP Architects was commissioned to review the compliance with AS1428 at BOX HILL TAFE and at BENDIGO TAFE in the 1990's - I was the project architect and prepared the report on each campus. I had no feedback on the implementation of my recommendations.

It is my recommendation that those studies be reviewed as a starting point (AS1428 has changes since then with even more stringent requirements) and such a study (I developed a checklist listing the Australian Standard in one column and compliance and comments in the next 2 columns) be performed on all campuses. The process of measurement and analysis is a straight forward analysis of existing conditions against the current Australian Standard AS1428. It is the simplest starting point although it may bring about the highest cost in building and grounds renovation. While existing buildings can be excused from compliance with the current Australian Standard the campus may not be able to implement immediately, they should have a plan of how to accommodate these changes should a need arise. Also while this building and site access and circulation compliance is underway any changes should ensure that people with mobility limitations are not made to feel as 'second class citizens ' with access further away than principal access eg. always provided ramp and step access adjacent each other and arriving together. Architects trained and specializing in Designing for People with Mobility limitations would be willing to quote. Should you have any queries please contact me. Peter Hirst [REDACTED]

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File1:

File2:

File3: