

the institution; it gives students as much control as possible over what and when and where and how they learn; it commonly uses the delivery methods of distance education and the facilities of educational technology; it changes the role of teacher from a source of knowledge to a manager of learning and a facilitator". (*Open Learning, National Board of Employment, Education and Training. Commissioned Report No. 4, June 1990,*

2.4 Funding for Education and Training

Higher education (university) is funded by the Commonwealth. The universities operate autonomously under State legislation.

2.4.1 Funding responsibilities

Technical and Further Education (TAFE) is a sector which provides post-school education. It receives State government funding for late secondary school programs delivered to adults and students who have left the school system. State governments also fund most of the vocational and training programs delivered by TAFE colleges such as hairdressing, auto mechanics, and electronics. The Commonwealth supplements State government funding and contributes equivalent university funding for TAFE courses accredited as degree and diploma level. It caters to adults who have left school but may require school courses up to matriculation level, technical and vocational education and some accredited degree and diploma level courses. The Commonwealth also provides 65% of capital works funding for TAFE.

The major responsibility for funding government schools rests with the State governments, which provide 90% of schools' running costs. The remaining 10% comes from the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Government also provides financial assistance to secondary and tertiary students in the form of regular allowances paid to students who are eligible (based on adult independent status or parents income). There are two schemes, AUSTUDY and ABSTUDY, the latter specifically for aboriginal students. University and some TAFE students contribute to education funding through the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) tax, which can be deferred until post-study employment.