



WATCH AND CLOCKMAKERS OF AUSTRALIA INC.  
ARBN 137 241 144

23-7-2021.

RIGHT TO REPAIR:

TRADE TRAINING TERTIARY APPRENTICESHIPS:

In this submission we have outlined the problems facing watch and clockmakers in Australia obtaining parts and trade training.

We have briefly outlined what we believe are positive, hopeful solutions to the ongoing difficulties in training Australia's next generation of tertiary trained watchmakers.

The supply of parts can only be solved through federal government legislation and a commitment to Australian watchmakers as well as consumers.

Further to our submission relating to "Right to Repair" and restriction of parts and how this impacts on trade and apprenticeship training, I would like the ACCC and the productivity commission to consider the following.

Both Federal and State governments have made much about youth unemployment and how they have increased funding to TAFE. This has been singularly focused on areas such as the building industry, plumbers, carpenters, motor trades, hairdressers, health care workers etc, it has not catered for specialised trades such as Watchmaking.

TAFE in Sydney is the only Watchmaking school in Australia and has, what can only be described as an uncertain future in relation to funding and course continuance.

Australia is being left behind in assured training in specialised skills areas.

How do we solve this predicament?

There are well established models in the UK and Europe, tertiary training or tertiary apprenticeships.

Not so long ago nurses and ambulance persons were trained on the job in hospitals or at accident sites, today we have highly trained tertiary graduate nurses and paramedics, who come to the workplace "JOB READY"

The WCA would like to see Government set up tertiary training schools based on the UK model and linked to wostep (watchmakers of Switzerland training and education program) in Switzerland.

How would this work? As we know it is still difficult for a young person to find a qualified trades person to take them on.

This model we are proposing alleviates that system in that the trainer, internationally accredited is able to teach many more students in a full- time classroom situation.

The advantages are obvious, better equipment and environment, more time spent with the student by dedicated staff.

The courses would cover all aspects of watchmaking from history servicing restoration through to the latest multi complication watches.

At the end of the course the students are "JOB READY" trained to compete with the rest of the world.

The demand for watchmakers both here and internationally has never been greater. We are on Asia's doorstep, where the rising middle classes purchasing power is growing and so is the appreciation of fine watches, this provides a great educational opportunity for Australia.

How does tertiary education work?

The courses would be run over 3 years with over 3000 hours of "face to face" teaching. Funding would be through state or federal government, TAFE or a levy on the major luxury watch brands, who will benefit the most.

These schools could be located at the existing TAFE college (Sydney) or Universities such as RMIT in Melbourne, that used to have a watchmaking school, Brisbane also had a watchmaking school.

To maintain our position in the world, we need a highly skilled work force that can be relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Who wants to become a watchmaker?

Watchmaking is a very attractive profession as it is a clean trade and suitable for Females and Males also individuals who may have suffered a spinal injury and are wheelchair bound but still have upper body movement.

#### REFERENCES:

British school of watchmaking [www.britishschoolofwatchmaking.co.uk](http://www.britishschoolofwatchmaking.co.uk)

BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERISTY-HOROLOGY DEPARTMENT

I am happy to discuss any other queries that you may have.

Regards,

Graeme Baker.

WCA Vic Vice President.