

I would like to bring to your attention a striation of the education system in Western Australia. Some disadvantaged people (eg recent immigrants, low socio-economic people, people with behavioral issues or handicaps) are being funnelled into private institutions such as [REDACTED]. I am not an expert on education bureaucracy in Australia, but you should be aware that the "teachers" that they are recruiting are not qualified teachers in the same sense of a registered teacher. In fact, registration as a teacher is not a qualification that they need. What they do need, for some reason, is a Certificate 4 in Training and Assessment (or a commitment to undertake such a course), which costs around \$2000 to complete. What this does is a) discourages actual teachers from working in the institution (because why would you pay \$2000 to undertake a course to show you how to do a job you have already been trained to do? For less money?) and 2) creates another, lower level of education and training for disadvantaged people, who are being taught by less qualified people who have not been to university. This creeping privatisation of education in Australia is greatly concerning as it widens the gap between the rich and the poor, lessens opportunities for disadvantaged people and lowers the esteem and value of teaching as a profession. TAFE should not be handing out teaching qualifications for any price.