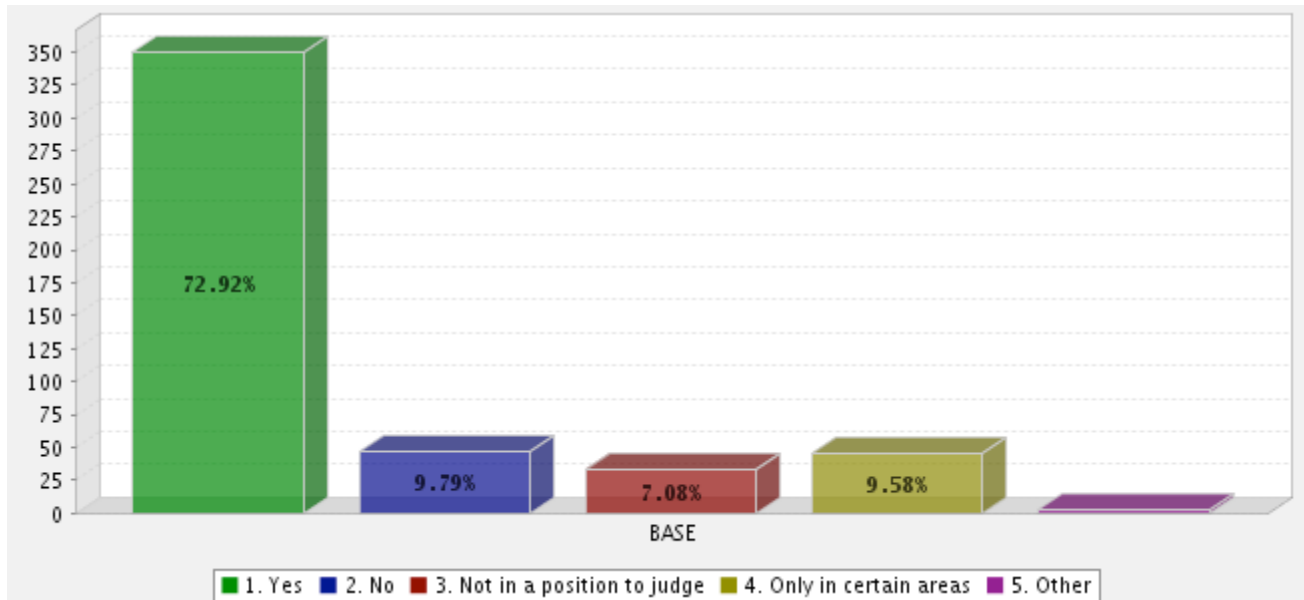


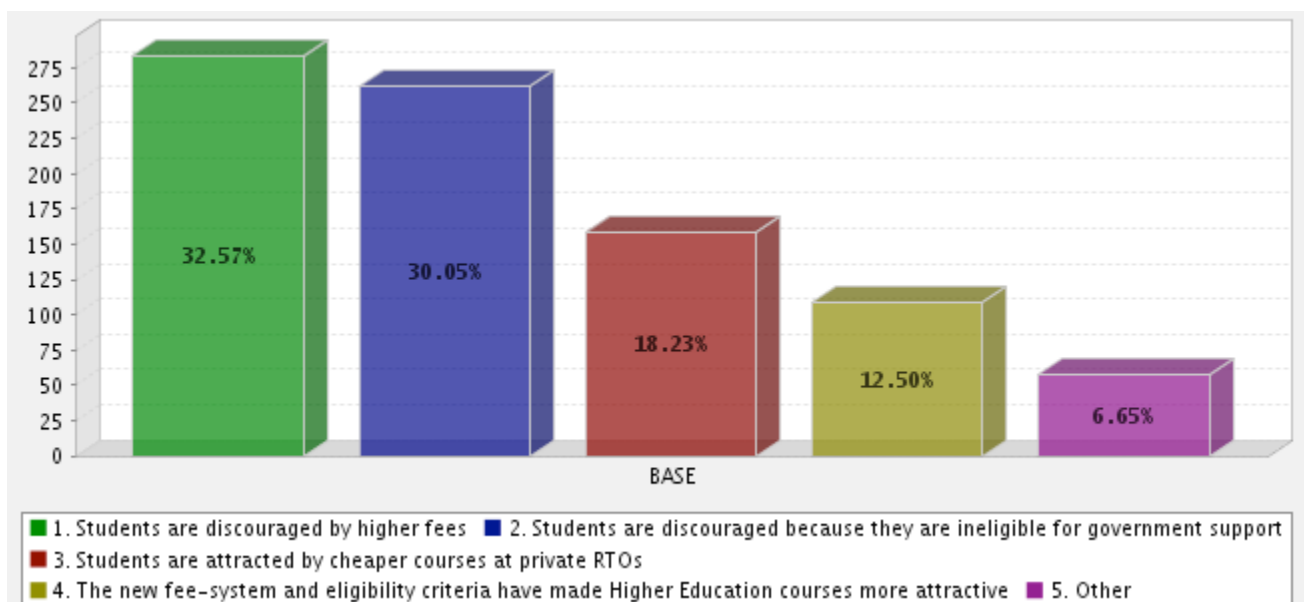
AEU TAFE TEACHER SURVEY 2011

Respondents: 486

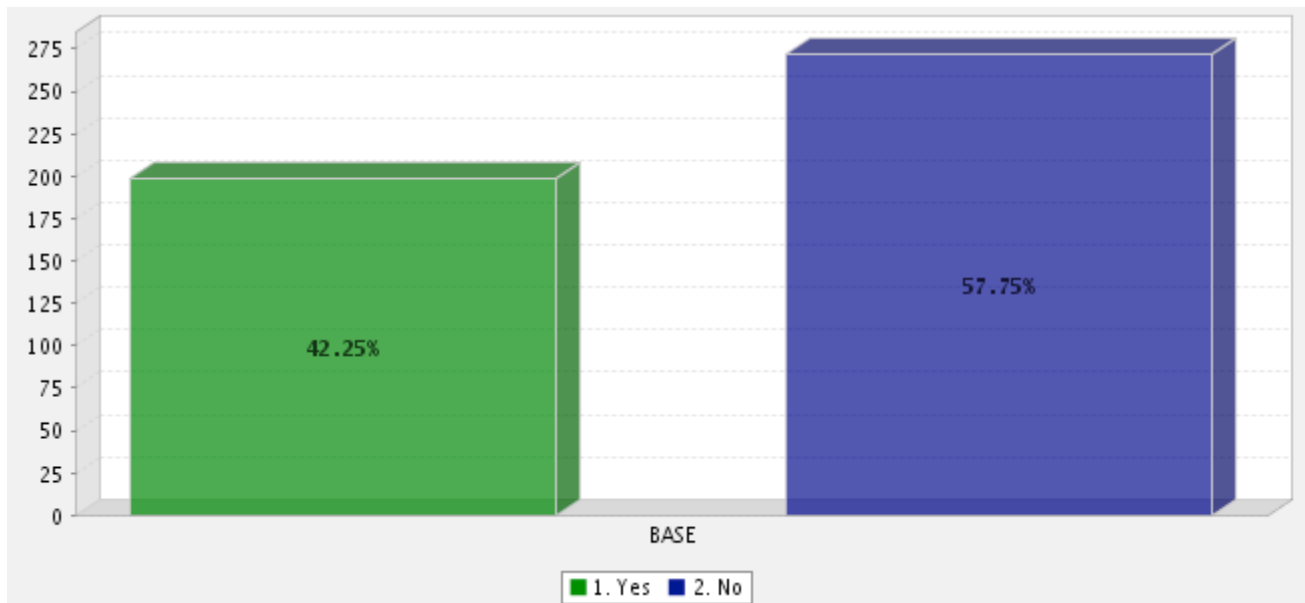
1. Have you noticed a drop in enrolments for your Institute this year?



2. If you answered yes to question 1, do you have any thoughts on the causes of any drop in market share (you may select more than one option)?



3. Are you aware of any questionable practices in attracting students to courses in either TAFEs or private RTOs?



Questionable Practices in attracting students to courses: comments

Courses that cost in excess of \$2000 and take 6 Months to complete are delivered for \$395 and are delivered in 5 days (at private RTOs).

Very short course completion times, very low fees and virtually guaranteed successful RPL (Recognition for Prior Learning) outcomes.

Dirt cheap fees without quality in education. you can get a Certificate III in Aged Care in 5 weeks which also includes a 2 week work placement. Where is the quality in care and education?

Tick and flick.

False advertising re fees and/or career prospects e.g. correspondence course in Diploma of Counseling

Reduced face to face and teacher contact for completion of certificates and consequential reduced content reflected in examinations.

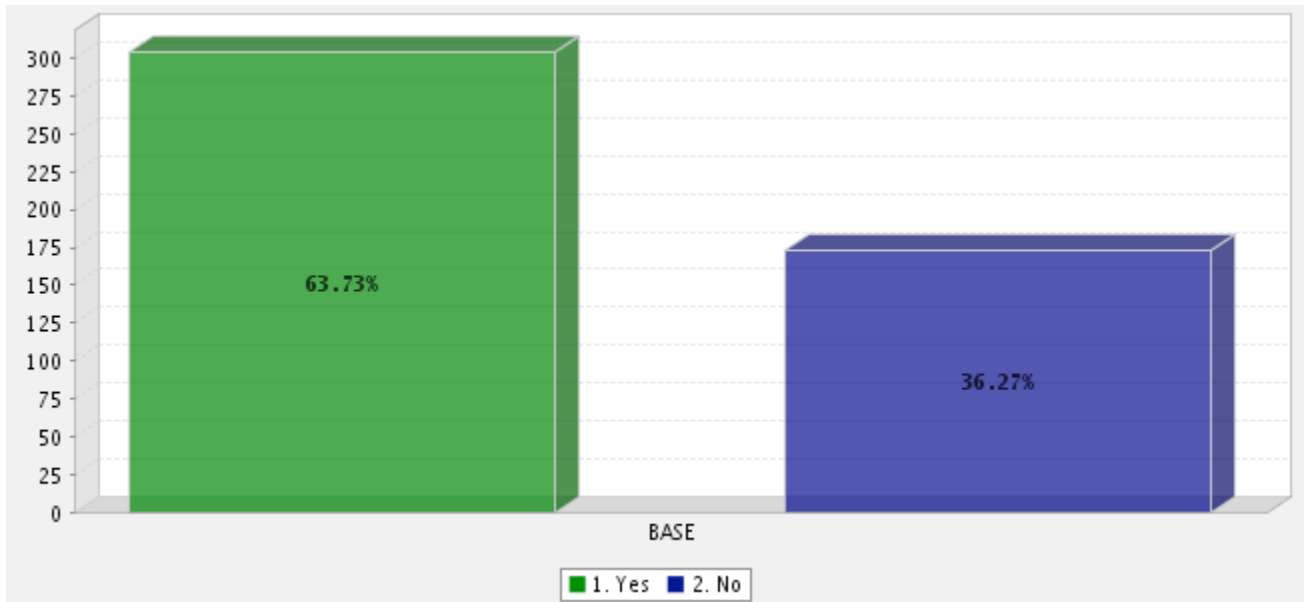
Private RTOs near us have a reputation of competing with us by offering courses with very little face-to-face tuition and a virtually guaranteed 'pass', via direct coaching i.e. unprofessional standards.

Offering cheaper courses over shorter periods of time. Full Diplomas over three weekends and other course with a bonus of a Cert IV in TAA included.

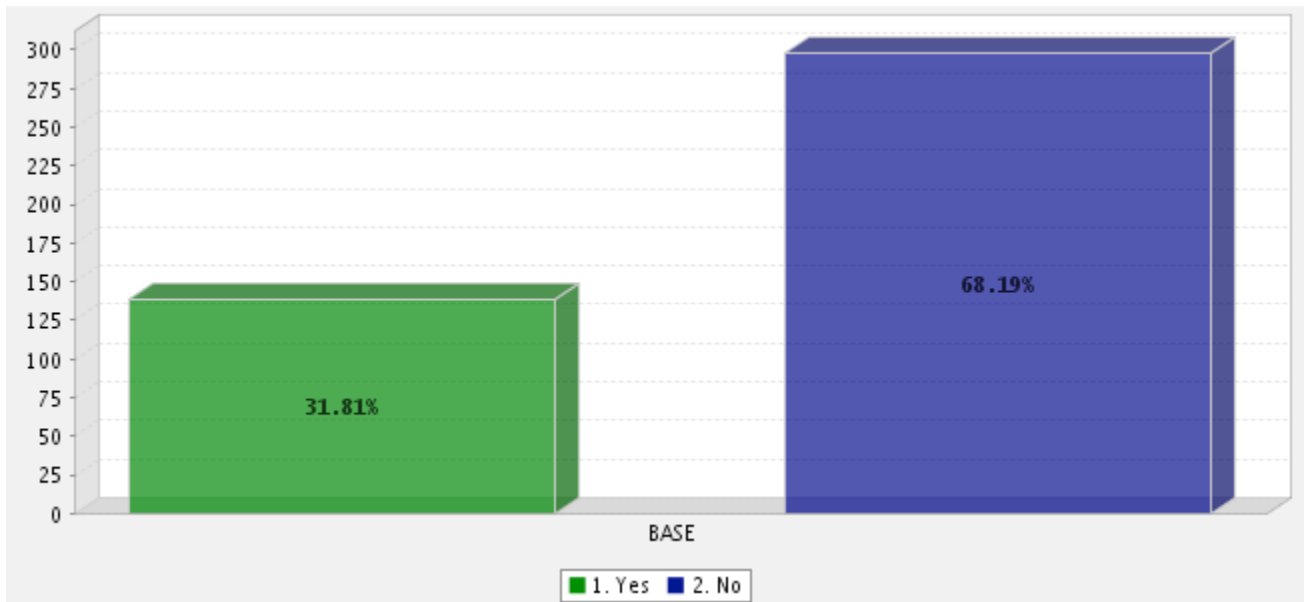
There is a distinct 'tick and flick' with on site assessment at one RTO with it's apprentice carpenters which is why employers are sending them there. The employer does not lose the apprentice for a week of off the job training but the quality of apprentice is very low in fact they are becoming unemployable by other employers.

4. TAFE Institutes are shaving more and more hours off the delivery of courses and teachers are being allocated less and less time in direct

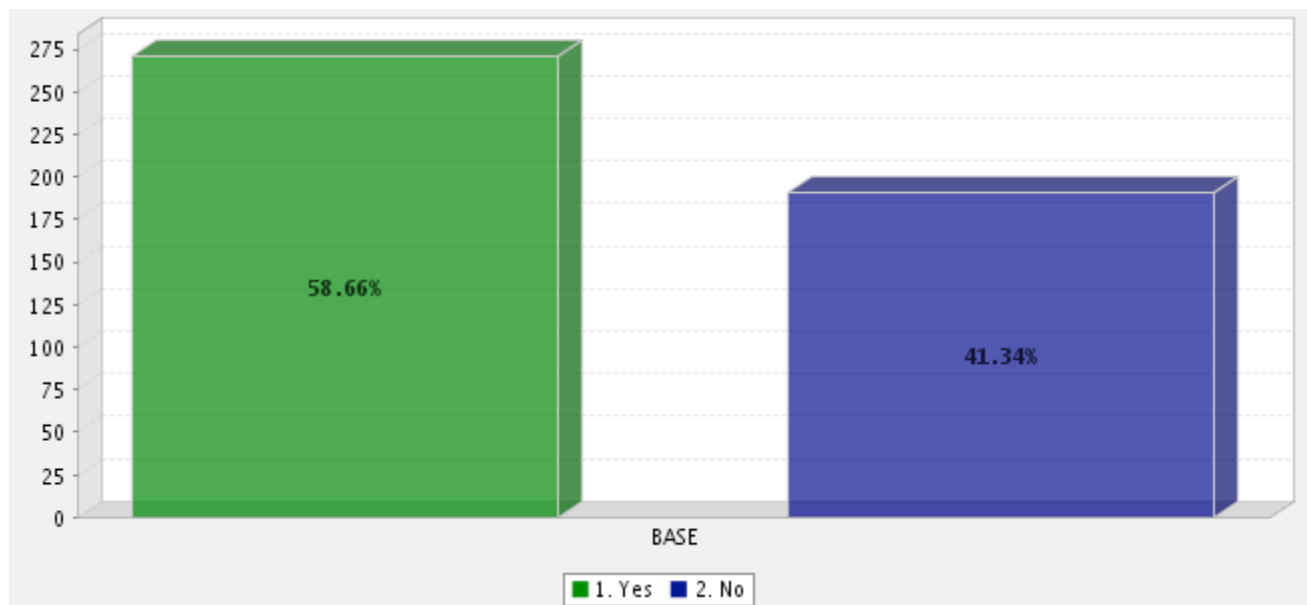
contact with students to cover the course content. Have you had hours shaved off the nominal hours for the course you are involved in?



6. Do you believe that students will be able to successfully complete their study with the reduced contact time?



7. Are you aware of other practices used to reduce costs of course delivery?



Practices used to reduce the cost of delivery: comments

A substantial push towards on-line learning is resulting in teaching staff becoming 'redundant' and students not necessarily gaining greatly from self-paced learning.

Staff who once had at least one hour to coordinate classes and oversee compliance no longer have it. Staff are really under pressure.

Online delivery where there is no guarantee the enrolled student is submitting their own work. Teaching to a bulk audience to cut back on teaching.

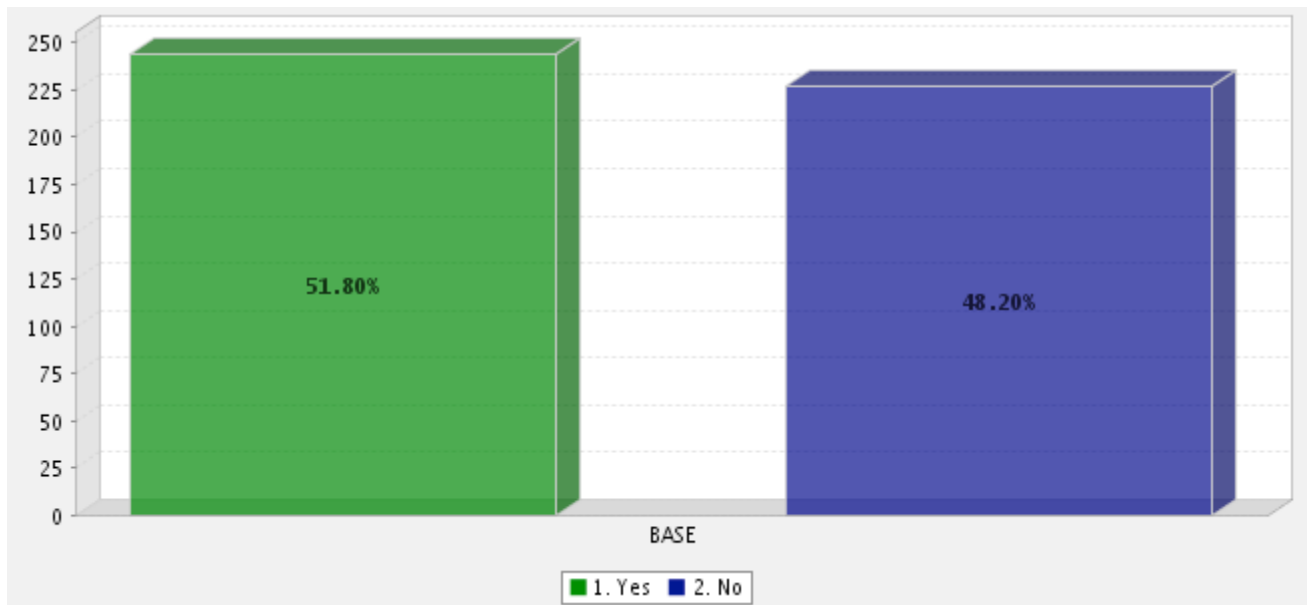
Not delivering what the competency development plan requires. Most practical exercises are being skipped due to lack of equipment or time for setting up.

Larger classes, more part time teachers.

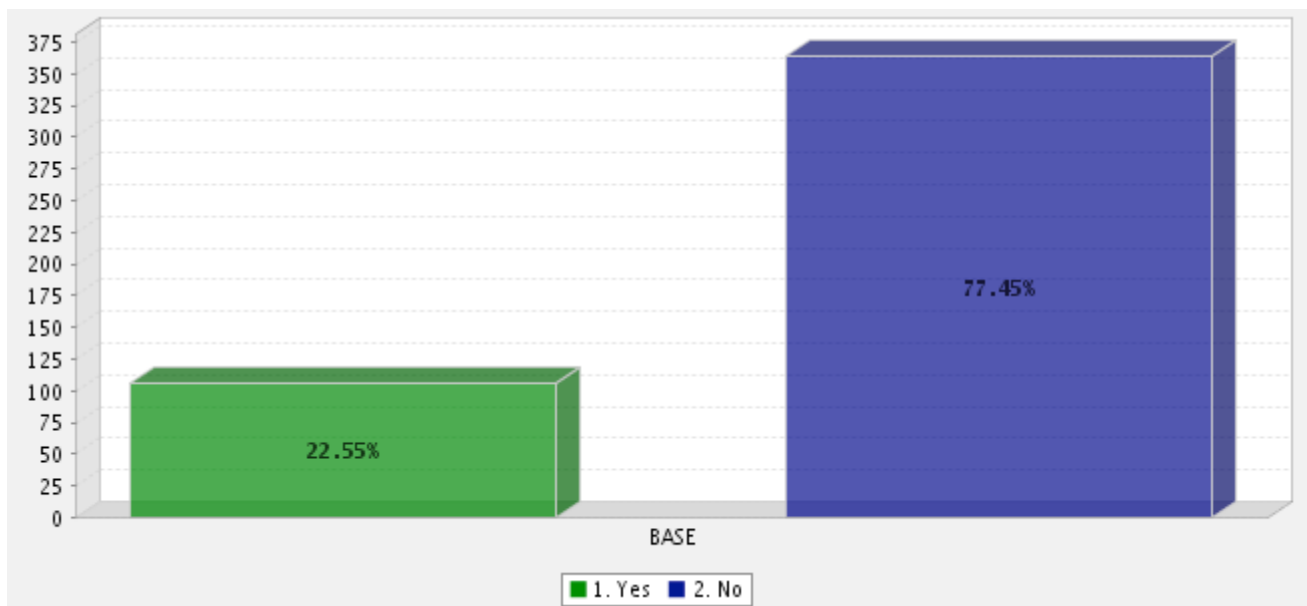
Cancelling any less than fully subscribed courses (particularly short industrial skills courses).

More and more on-line delivery and using sessional instead of ongoing staff to deliver and coordinate as it is cheaper.

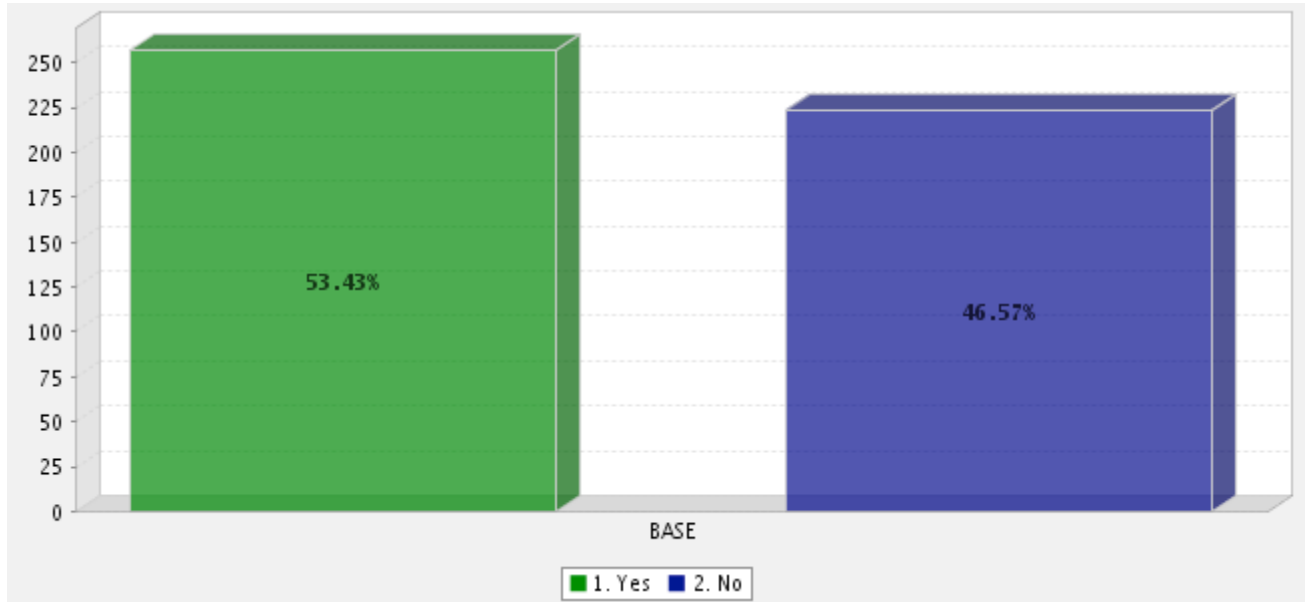
8. Do you believe that the needs of the students are taken into account when courses are designed in your TAFE?



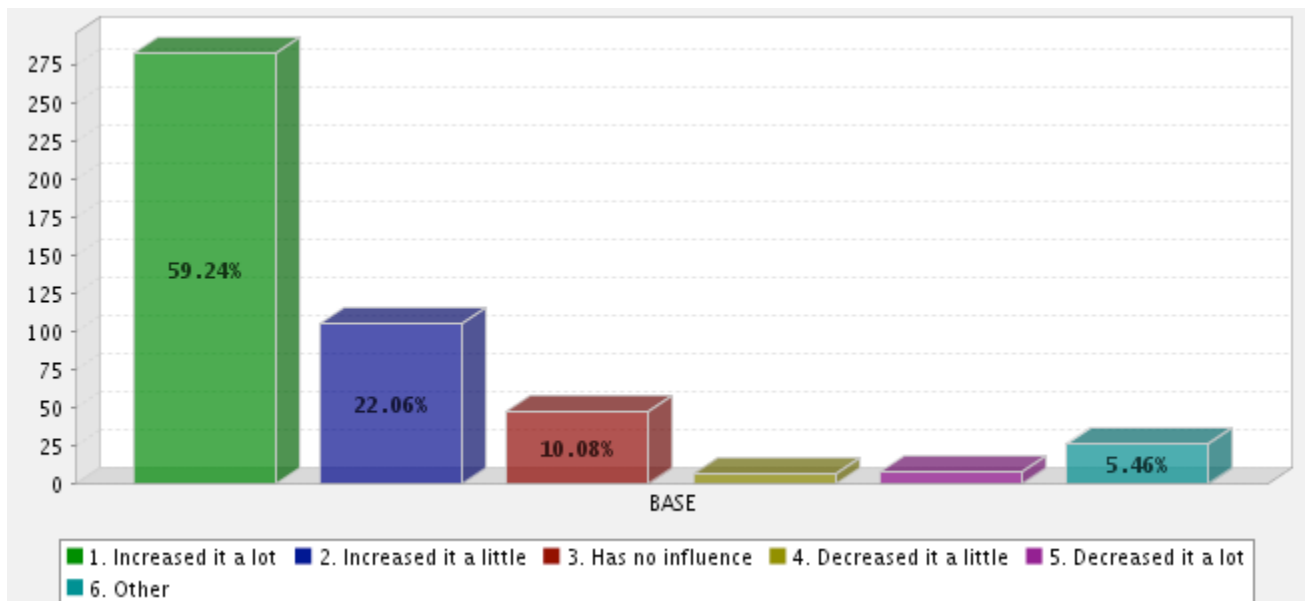
9. Do you believe that students studying today are receiving the same quality of education as they did a few years ago?



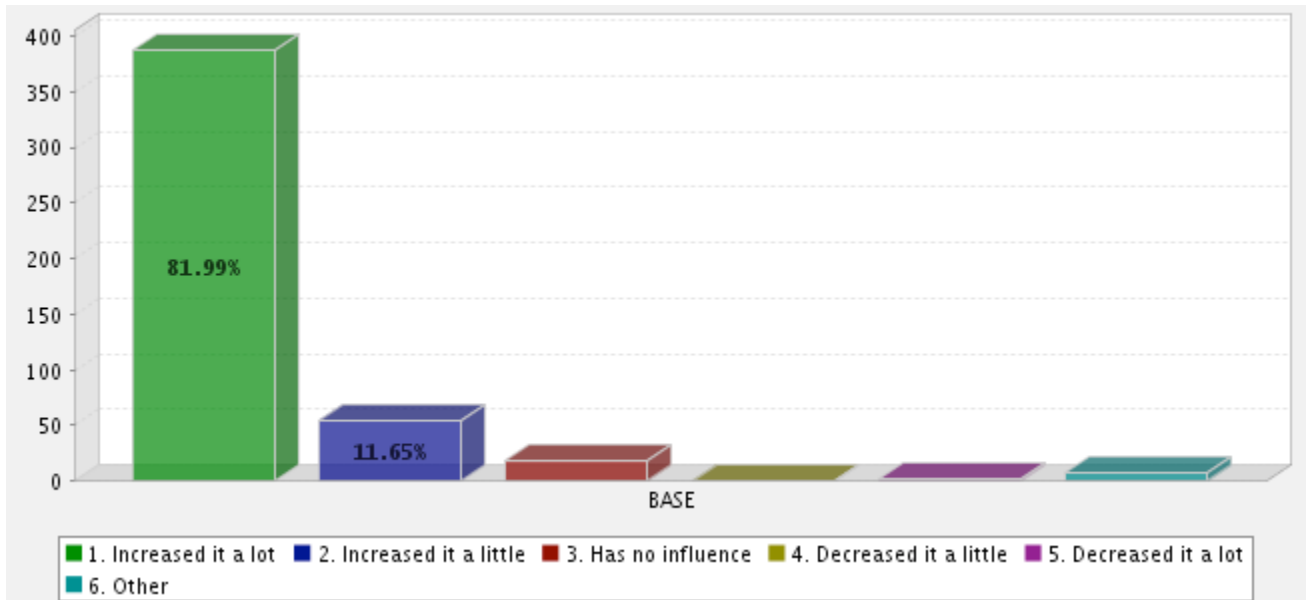
10. Do you feel pressure to pass students that might not be competent?



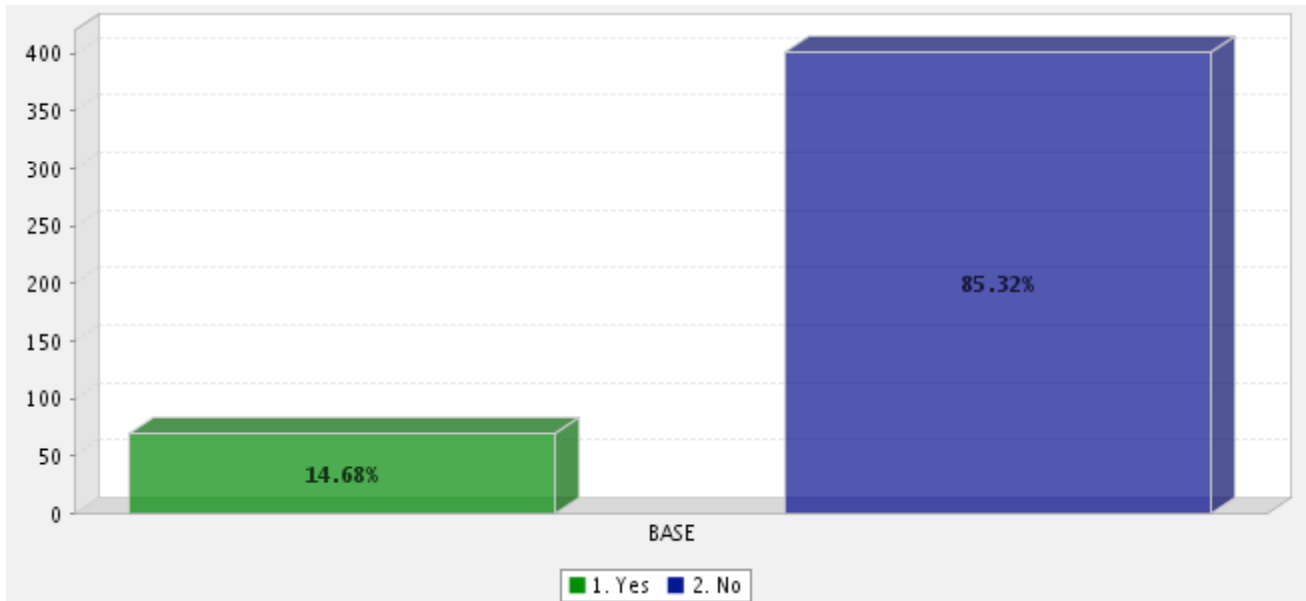
11. How do you feel the Securing Jobs for Your Future reforms (contestable funding, more complicated enrolment procedures, etc) have affected your teaching workload?



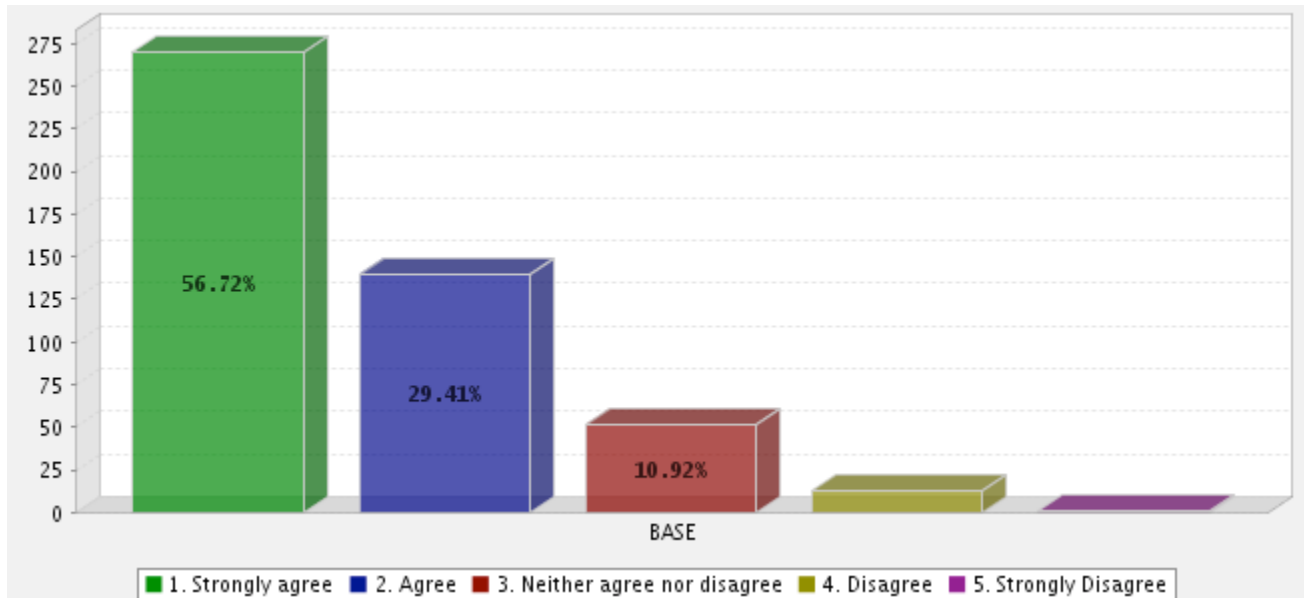
12. How do you feel the Securing Jobs for Your Future reforms (contestable funding, more complicated enrolment procedures, etc) have affected your administrative workload?



13. Do you believe you have the time to support students to the level they require?



14. Please choose the most appropriate response to the following statement: The Securing Jobs for Your Future reforms have had a negative effect on the quality of teaching and learning at my TAFE.



If you could tell Minister Hall what needs to be changed to the fees charged to students and the way TAFE is funded, what would you say?

(We need) more concessions for all students, not just under 25; maximum fees should be abolished; stop shaving off hours from nominal hours; reduce admin for teachers as the reality is there is less time for teaching and being effective.

One of the concerns for my area is that I work with students from disadvantaged backgrounds. With the funding attached to the student, if for medical reasons they can no longer attend, we lose the funding & then the class that was viable at the beginning of the year becomes threatened as it is not always possible to replace that enrolment. As the classes are foundation skills courses often the outcomes for these students include non assessed outcomes, i.e. social capital and there are few options for these students. Because all teaching staff are highly qualified, all paid at diploma rates, it costs a lot to run these courses but they are funded at a lower SCH (scheduled contact hour) rate.

Take away the eligibility restrictions for a government-funded place and simplify the fee structure. You cannot expect a flexible workforce and new jobs creation if people cannot retrain in an alternate industry to their original qualification. Also there are real issues in terms of people picking up skills specific to a different job for example chainsaw or four wheel drive. The eligibility criteria really restricts TAFE's traditional areas of training.

People looking for career changes can't access affordable training if they have a higher qualification. This is putting a lot of people off studying.

*Come and live in the country. We have had drought for over 10 years, fires, floods in the last 3 years and a 200% increase in private providers who are not audited as we are. Not only have you given us a funding system and over the top auditing to grind us into the ground, you have allowed open slather for the independent RTOs to do as they please. They joke to us about all the ways we are tied up in red tape while they can happily run classes with 7 people and are responsible and accountable for 1/3 of what we are. **Quote from one of my perspective students: 'I'm going to _____, they are \$1000 dollars cheaper,***

I can go for a couple of weekends, they will tick me off and I'm right to teach'. I hope none of my kids get taught by them or yours either!

The stipulations that require anyone with a higher qualification to pay full fees is preventing many people from studying, particularly from taking on mid-life retraining. EG one of our students has an arts degree from the early 1990s which didn't lead to work, and now has been a single mum for the past 10 years. She has an aptitude to do well in our course, but will not take on Diploma level studies because she has to pay full fees and is thus shut out from retraining in a new field. Also, why would you pay \$7000 for a Diploma when Higher Education is cheaper?

Please Minister, listen to the facts as they are presented to you by teachers such as myself, we are in the best position to evaluate these reforms because we are dealing with the consequences daily. We care about our students, we care about education and we care for the future of Australia, this is not the way to achieve the goals of educating and training people for the future. Let's go back to the way things were before the reforms wrecked TAFE education.

Train the students properly with the correct hours. (i.e. value for money charged)

The whole system requires a total review and rethink. The community is understandably resistant to paying university style fees at TAFE. If we want people to take up opportunities in education, we must make it accessible and affordable. Also we should be providing quality and meaningful change rather than change that continually cuts courses, hours and quality. Education is the future of our nation and we are doing ourselves a vast disservice by continually 'dumbing it down'. Education should not be viewed as a moneymaking enterprise, it is an investment in our people and future.