

C'wealth, Victoria snubbed on TAFE

By MIKE TAYLOR,
National Affairs Writer

The Commonwealth and Victoria have been isolated on the future of technical and further education, with the other states and territories refusing to cede administrative control of their TAFE colleges and programs.

With just weeks to go before Prime Minister Paul Keating's Youth Summit, the states have ruled out handing administrative control to either the Commonwealth or a National Training Authority.

The turning point in the push against the National Training Authority model came when NSW balked at handing over administrative control.

Until then, NSW had been relatively uncommitted and prepared to accept a model in which the Commonwealth managed TAFE funding arrangements, while the states retained administrative control.

The National Training Authority model was suggested by the Premier of Victoria, Joan Kirner, as a last-minute compromise at the June 12 Premiers' Conference.

Under that model, a National Training Authority would be established under a board representative of the states, territories and the Commonwealth to both fund and administer TAFE institutions throughout Australia.

However, all the states with the exception of Victoria have balked at the loss of administrative control to a central "body".

Instead of supporting the National Training Authority model pursued by Victoria and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the states have thrown their weight behind a cooperative model originally drawn up in late April by Queensland with the support of South Australia, Western Australia and the ACT.

One source within the states' TAFE system said yesterday that the problem with the National Training Authority was that it

was being promoted by Victoria.

"The Commonwealth is acting at the behest of a state which cannot claim a great deal of credibility on the question of TAFE policy or funding," he said.

"The strength of the Queensland position cannot be underestimated — it is strong, thoughtful and cogent," the source said.

He said that pursuit of the National Training Authority model was unfortunate because it detracted from the areas in which there was already significant agreement between the states and the Commonwealth.

Those areas included "shared policy aspirations", an "agreed national reform agenda", "significant growth in funding" and the pursuit of "agreed targets".

While the other states and territories have been moving away from the National Training Authority model, Victoria is understood to have been lobbying hard via its TAFE Teachers' Union and other, similar, bodies.

The close involvement of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet has also been criticised by some state sources who believe the matter should have been left in the hands of the Department of Employment, Education and Training.

"The people who know most within the Commonwealth are being left furthest from action," one source said. "That fact tends to undermine the credibility of the Commonwealth's push."

Short of convincing the Commonwealth to adopt their so-called national partnership model, the states are expected to move closer to the compromise proposal originally taken to the June 12 Premiers' Conference by the Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Kim Beazley.

That model would involve the states broadly maintaining existing funding levels, with the Commonwealth providing further funds. Vitrally, under that model, the states would maintain administrative control.

180 new TAFE places

By DAVID SIBLEY

The ACT Institute of TAFE has received \$635,000 from the Federal Government to create an additional 180 full-time places.

The Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Kim Beazley, announced the funding yesterday, as a move to boost the skills base of the ACT workforce.

The funding means new courses are being offered, from certificates in electrical and electronic trades, community care, office skills, financial services, to food and beverage studies.

The head of ACT TAFE's educational planning and student services, Ewan Hazell, said yesterday the new program would be aimed at unemployed people, particularly long-term unemployed.

About \$350,000 will be used immediately to set up the additional places from next month, and the remainder will be spent

at the beginning of the 1993 academic year on similar courses.

"Although the new funding was less than last year's, Mr Hazell said it had to be seen in the context of the \$1.7 million provided earlier this year by the Commonwealth for pre-vocational training, creating 470 places.

The new program was similar to a \$800,000 program funded by the Department of Employment, Education and Training last year.

The ACT Minister for Education and the Arts, Bill Wood, welcomed the funding, saying it would enable ACT TAFE to provide crucial training to young people vulnerable to unemployment during the recession.

At the beginning of the year, the ACT Government reduced TAFE funding by \$1.9 million, resulting in about 4000 potential students being turned away.

Daly to launch 'National Attractions week'

By PETER CLACK

The former King of Canberra, Fred Daly, will launch the first National Attractions week in Canberra today.

"As a Canberra I encourage all my fellow residents to make the effort to explore the wonderful opportunities offered by these great treasure houses of Australia just sitting on our doorstep — places

many Australians travel long distances to see," Mr Daly said.

National Attractions week, from July 4 to 12, is being organised by the National Capital Attractions Association to encourage Canberra people to "discover the national treasures" — 17 major attractions of national significance.

A National Capital Planning Authority survey of the six state capi-

tal cities identified the attractions.

They include Parliament House, the Australian War Memorial and the less well known Australian National Botanic Gardens, the National Museum of Australia and the National Film and Sound Archives.

The ACT Tourism Commission says half of Canberra's visitors come to see national attractions.

Visitors contribute \$400 million a year to the local economy.

The NCPA and ACTION will provide tours, and special programs for youth will be held at some attractions. The launch will be at 10.30am at the Regatta Point National Capital Exhibition.

Four-page liftout guide to National Attractions Week appears today.

Union scheme takes women to new heights



The ACT Chief Minister, Rosemary Follett, at the launch of a new training program for women unionists yesterday.

The ACT Trades and Labour Council's training program for women unionists was launched yesterday by the Chief Minister, Rosemary Follett.

She said that the program aimed

to increase women's participation in unions at the delegate and shop steward level.

This would reverse a perception of unions being male-dominated organisations.

"I think it is in the interest of unions to begin to employ more fully the wealth of experience, knowledge and enthusiasm of women members," Ms Follett said.

Some women still faced barriers

in workplaces and unions. The ACT has the highest participation rate of women in the paid workforce at 62.2 per cent. This is 10 percentage points higher than the national average.

Polyukhovich to be tried for murder of 850 Jews

ADELAIDE: Adelaide pensioner Ivan Polyukhovich will stand trial for his alleged involvement in the slaughter of up to 850 Jews in Nazi-occupied Ukraine in 1942, even though the charge was dismissed last month by a magistrate.

The charge was one of three referred in the Supreme Court yesterday by the Federal Director of Public Prosecutions, Michael Rozenc, QC.

Polyukhovich, 76, the first Australian to be charged with European war crimes, will now face a total of five charges.

He is accused of murdering eight people and taking part in the liquidation of a Jewish ghetto in the Ukraine village of Serniki in 1942.

Last month, Polyukhovich was ordered by Adelaide magistrate Kelvin Prescott to stand trial on two charges, alleging he murdered six people in Ukraine in August or September, 1942.

Five other murder counts originally brought against him were dismissed by Mr Prescott, including the major charge that he was involved in the round-up and slaughter of the Serniki Jews.

However, the law permits the DPP to re-file any of the previously dismissed charges in a higher court if it sees fit.

Polyukhovich's senior defence lawyer Michael David, QC, said yesterday he was surprised and disappointed by the DPP's move.

A spokeswoman for the DPP said the department was unable to comment on the matter before the trial began in the Supreme Court on Monday.

Polyukhovich has not entered a plea and is free on bail.

Meanwhile, a committal hearing involving a second Adelaide pensioner charged with war crimes, 78-year-old Mikolay Berezowsky, continued before magistrate David Gurry yesterday.

A third South Australian man, Heinrich Wagner, 68, will face a committal hearing next month on charges of having murdered 20 people and of taking part in the murder of 104 people in Ukraine between 1942 and 1943.

IN BRIEF

Extra advice for consumers

The ACT Minister for Consumer Affairs, Terry Connolly, has named a new and expanded Consumer Affairs Advisory Committee to be chaired by the director of CARE, Judy Power.

The former chair, Mike Vernon, will head a new ACT Product Safety Committee under legislation expected to be introduced in August.

Meanwhile, Consumer Affairs has received reports of two scams in the ACT. Multi Link International operating from Victoria and the Seven Oaks Corporation operating from WA.

Packer riding high

LONDON: Australia's richest man, Kerry Packer, is back in the saddle after a broken collarbone and is helping his Sussex-based polo team win matches in the British Open tournament.

The Ellerton White team had a 15-6 win over Kennelot Stables.

Secretary to stay

WOLLONGONG: South Coast Labour Council secretary Paul Matters will not be dismissed over his claims of bribery and corruption on the Port Kembla waterfront.

An extraordinary meeting of the Labour Council was called off after the Seamen's Union dropped its motion calling for his removal.

Longer waits for trials in ACT courts

Accused people in custody in the ACT can expect a wait of 2½ months before trial.

This is an increase of nearly one month from December last year, according to the latest figures issued by the ACT Law Society.

Accused not in custody can expect a 16½-month wait.

The waiting times underline re-

cent pleas from judges and the profession for a fourth resident judge for the ACT Supreme Court.

The society regularly monitors the time between charges and trial in criminal cases, and readiness for trial and trial in civil cases.

Its latest figures compare December, 1991, and March this year. The figures exclude cases where the

delay is the fault of the accused.

In March, 83 people awaited criminal trial and 15 awaited sentence.

Last year 291 certificates of readiness for civil trials were filed, though many cases were settled. At all times more than 80 people await criminal trial, and up to 20 await sentence.

— CRISPIN HULL

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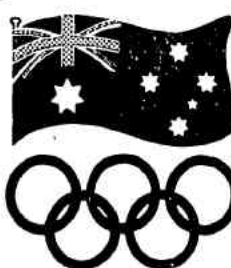
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