

**TECHNICAL  
FURTHER  
EDUCATION  
IN  
QUEENSLAND**

---

**A HISTORY 1860-1990**

---

Historical Perspectives on  
Contemporary Issues  
in Queensland Education  
No. 7

**Eddie Clarke**

*Department of Education, Queensland  
and  
Bureau of Employment, Vocational and Further Education  
and Training, Queensland  
1992*

## Historical Perspectives on Contemporary Issues in Queensland Education

This series of reports provides historical perspectives intended to contribute to an objective understanding of current issues in Queensland education. The analysis and interpretations in each monograph belong to the author, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Department of Education.

Titles published:

- Corporal Punishment in Queensland State Schools* (no. 1, 1980)
- Sex Education in Queensland: A History of the Debate 1900-1980* (no. 2, 1980)
- Female Teachers in Queensland State Schools: A History, 1860-1983* (no. 3, 1985)
- Assessment in Queensland Secondary Schools: Two Decades of Change, 1964-1983* (no. 4, 1987)
- Education Regions in Queensland: Towards a Philosophy and Practice, 1937-1988* (no. 5, 1988)
- Sex Education in Queensland: A History of the Debate Since 1900* (no. 6, 1991)

Titles in preparation:

- A History of Drug and Alcohol Education in Queensland, 1880-1990
- Parents and the Community in Queensland State Education, 1860-1990

**Monographs on the History of Education in Queensland** is a series also published by the Department of Education. This series examines significant aspects of Queensland's educational history.

Titles published:

- A Centenary History of Home Economics Education in Queensland 1881-1981* (no. 1, 1981)
- State Education in Queensland: A Brief History* (no. 2, 1984)

Further information on either series may be obtained from the Educational History Unit, Department of Education, PO Box 33, Brisbane North Quay, Q4002; tel. (07) 237 0709, 237 0757.

**National Library of Australia Cataloguing-in-Publication Data** Clarke, Eddie, 1931

Technical and further education in Queensland: a history 1860-1990.

Bibliography.  
ISBN 0 7242 47211.

1. Adult education - Queensland - History. 2. Technical education - Queensland - History. I. Queensland. Dept. of Education. II. Queensland. Bureau of Employment, Vocational and Further Education and Training. III. Title. (Series: Historical perspectives on contemporary issues in Queensland education; no. 7).

374.9943

Published by Publishing Services for the Educational History Unit, Department of Education, Queensland, and for the Bureau of Employment, Vocational and Further Education and Training, Queensland.

© Department of Education, Queensland 1992

## Acknowledgments

### Department of Education

Keith Cordwell, when Senior Education Officer, Promotions and Investigations Branch, Division of TAFE, recommended that this history should be written. Dr Norm Pyle, former Deputy Director (Planning and Development) Division of TAFE, and Greg Logan, Manager, Educational History Unit, Department of Education, helped to keep the project on track.

### Bureau of Employment, Vocational and Further Education and Training

Ian McGaw, Executive Director, and Ron Dungleison, Acting Executive Director, Human Resources, Finance and Administration, were very supportive of the project. Brian McKeering, South Brisbane College of TAFE, collected reminiscences and illustrative material.

### Past and present officers of TAFE and BEVFET

Numerous officers willingly gave their time to provide reminiscences and illustrative material which proved very useful.

For permission to reproduce photographs and other illustrations, thanks are due to the Department's Educational History Unit, the Bureau of Employment, Vocational and Further Education and Training, John Oxley Library, the *Daily Sun*, and to Colin Marsh and Dudley Eglinton.

Prepared for publication by officers of Publishing Services, edited by Rex Marshall-Radcliffe and designed by Barbara Hutley.

---

# Foreword

---

This history documents the evolving role and contribution of technical and further education in Queensland. From its foundation in classes to teach young mechanics and tradespeople the useful arts and sciences, to its current provision of courses that meet the employment and personal needs of many thousands of Queenslanders, technical and further education has been possibly the most dynamic of our educational systems.

Changes in society and particularly in the educational expectations of the community are documented in this study, which also identifies the major forces for change and traces the problems and solutions which have emerged.

Eddie Clarke is to be congratulated for his scholarship. Our gratitude is also extended to the many educators and members of the community who contributed. What has emerged is an important set of references about the organisation most widely known in the community as 'TAFE'.

R.H. WALLACE, AM

Former Managing Director  
Bureau of Employment, Vocational and Further Education  
and Training, Queensland June 1992

---

# Contents

---

Acknowledgments	ii	
Foreword	iii	
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>1 Early developments, 1860-1900</b>	<b>3</b>	
Colonial background	3	
Origins of technical education	4	
Adaptation to the society, 1882-1900	9	
<b>2 The Government takes control, 1901-1918</b>	<b>19</b>	
Influences on technical education	19	
Closer government supervision of the subsidy, 1901-1902	20	
Board of Technical Education, 1902-1905 - a government expediency	20	
The Department grasps the nettle, 1905-1918	26	
<b>3 Gradual expansion, 1919-1943</b>	<b>40</b>	
Economic and political developments	40	
Morris's aims	40	
Consolidation of a bureaucratic administration	41	
Finding the teachers	42	
Developing a network of technical education	43	
Courses	44	
Research	50	
Commonwealth involvement	50	
Students	51	
<b>4 The Cinderella image, 1944-1973</b>	<b>53</b>	
Political and economic changes and social attitudes	53	
Administration	54	
Staff - efforts to upgrade	56	
Provision of technical education	56	
Courses	60	
Students	65	
<b>5 New concepts - TAFE, 1974-1987</b>	<b>66</b>	
Economic changes	66	
Important developments	66	
Administration	68	
A professional staff	69	
Expansion once more	70	
Courses	72	
Students	76	
<b>6 A time of constant change, 1987-1990</b>	<b>77</b>	
Queensland society	77	
Head Office administration	77	
College administration	83	
Courses	84	
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>85</b>	
<b>Appendixes</b>		
1. Technical and further education in Queensland: A chronology	86	
2. College opening and closing dates	86	
3. Technical education syllabus, 1919	87	
4. Technical education courses, 1960	88	
5. Head Office staff, 1987	90	
<b>References</b>	<b>92</b>	

---

# Introduction

---

This history has been prepared in chronological sequence, with each of the six chapters treating significant events in the administration and organisation of technical and further education in Queensland. (A chronology of these events appears as Appendix 1.)

Technical and further education, like any other form of education, has been shaped by the society from which it emerges. Accordingly, each chapter is introduced by a brief analysis of those aspects of Queensland society that were relevant at the time to its development. In each chapter, the relationship between many of these aspects and technical and further education is spelt out.

Each chapter, wherever possible, deals with such specific topics as aims of technical and further education, administration, staffing, finance and courses available, in an attempt to trace the development within these areas over the years.

As well, the history endeavours to describe significant conflicts, not only internal conflicts but ones involving other institutions. This description and, where possible, identification of forces for change help to explain the directions taken by Queensland technical and further education from 1860 onwards.

