

## Help save Swinburne Lilydale

Swinburne Lilydale, **both** the university and TAFE campus, are closing. This is a devastating outcome for our community.

The only reason Swinburne announced that it is closing its doors in Lilydale is because of the unprecedented cuts to TAFE by the Baillieu Government.

\$290 million has been ripped out of TAFE, the impact of this decision is immense.

Swinburne is the only university campus in the outer-east. Our community fought hard to establish this campus, we must now fight hard to save it.

Swinburne TAFE has given thousands of school leavers a future, providing skills directly related to employment opportunities in our region in courses such as horticulture, tourism, business, hospitality and IT. Local businesses that rely on Swinburne for their skilled workforce are appalled at this outcome.

Students at local schools such as Monbulk College and Upwey High are not immune either. The cost of School Based Traineeships will skyrocket as a result of these cuts to TAFE. Certificate courses such as Business and Hospitality will increase from less than \$300 to several thousand. What family can afford that? I fear that young people will simply drop out of school. What will they do then?

The Baillieu Government must reverse these cuts before it's too late. Our university and TAFE must not be closed.

It's not easy to get a job at the best of times. We, as a community, must tell the Baillieu Government not to make it any harder for our kids.

If you are outraged at the closure of this incredibly important institution, there are things you can do:

- Sign the petition. I have distributed a petition in our community that I will present to Parliament. For the Government to sit up and take notice, we need thousands of signatures. If you have missed it you can get a copy at my website [jamesmerlino.com.au](http://jamesmerlino.com.au)
- Attend the rally on the steps of Parliament on 16th August. For further details please go to my website.

Outside of the family, education is the greatest factor in transforming lives. It is through education that young people can achieve their dreams. It is through education that people can break out of the cycle of poverty. A society that values education is one that delivers jobs and prosperity for its citizens. That's why Swinburne Lilydale must not close.

Education must be our number one priority.