

# Course may be closed

By Elisa Miller

A DANDENONG-based hospitality course aimed at guiding disengaged and disadvantaged youth into the workforce will be cancelled unless more people enrol.

Ascet TAFE chief executive Darcy Kelleher said if there were no more enrolments for the five-week certificate II course, it would be indefinitely postponed.

"Ascet TAFE can help these kids, our phones are open, our classroom seats are open, and our trainers are ready.

"There are still disadvantaged youth out there. There are still kids that need direction, guidance and support."

Mr Kelleher said that with the year drawing to a close, so too was state government funding.

"This is the last chance. Funding ends on December 31, whether used or not.

"The Federal Government has already stopped funding free courses under the Pro-

ductivity Places Program for certificate II level qualifications, so young people should take advantage of this course for only \$55."

The three-day-a-week course, certificate II in hospitality (kitchen operations), is for disengaged youth aged 15-19 who have left school, not completed year 12 and are not working or training.

Ascet TAFE has run other programs with students successfully completing certificate IV in training and assessment and certificate IV in retail management.

"We are really hoping to make a dent in the skills level of disengaged youth in the southern region, our fingers are crossed."

The five-week course will start next Monday at the Dandenong Basketball Stadium in Stud Road.

For more details about the course and enrolments, visit [www.ascet.edu.au](http://www.ascet.edu.au) or call Ascet TAFE on 1300 655 544.