History of Open Training and Education Network
1910
The first correspondence courses are offered from Sydney Technical College by part-time teacher, Willie Albert Edward Gundry, to train health inspectors in the country during a typhoid epidemic. There is an initial enrolment of nine students.

1917
The first correspondence course in a trade subject began – practical classes are held in Sydney during the school holidays. By 1919 the Correspondence Division offers over 20 subjects.

1920s
The first optional tutorial groups appear in country towns and continue up to and just after World War 2.

1936
Mr Gundry retires as Head of Correspondence.

1938
The first two ‘travelling workshops’ are brought into service in converted railway wagons. These wagons visit towns consecutively along the railway lines, spending two weeks in each town.

1939
The Correspondence Teaching Division is established, based at Sydney Technical College.
Approximately 100,000 Australian service personnel enrol in Technical Education Branch correspondence courses during and after World War 2. Approximately 43,000 American service personnel also enrol in courses administered and marked by the Technical Education Branch with syllabi and learning materials supplied by the International Correspondence Schools in the USA.

Nearly 2000 ex-service personnel in NSW enrol in Technical Education Branch correspondence courses under the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme (CRTS).

The Correspondence Division becomes the School of External Studies with over 11,000 students.

The first full-time teachers are appointed to manage courses and help students with enrolment.

The School of External Studies becomes the College of External Studies and is made independent of Sydney Technical College, moving to Goulburn St, Sydney.

The College of External Studies moves to rented premises in Redfern.

Program of decentralization commences where students are encouraged to enrol in their local College with local correspondence teachers to be appointed (if available). Local tutorial and seminar groups are to be actively promoted.

The Department of Technical and Further Education replaces the Department of Technical Education.

The College of External Studies moves to rented premises in Redfern.
The College of External Studies is renamed the External Studies College of TAFE.

Partly in relation to costs, an internal TAFE review identifies a need for modern electronic delivery of services if the College of External Studies is to continue provision of distance education.

Increased local support for external students replaces the attempted decentralized delivery of distance courses. Regional Senior Head Teachers of External Studies are appointed and a Counselling Unit established within the College of External Studies.

Two short courses (Bar Service and Cellar Operations) are delivered on a trial basis by satellite (via Sky Channel). Telephone links supplemented the on-screen presentation.

As part of the restructuring of the Department of Technical and Further Education, which became the TAFE NSW Commission, the College of External Studies becomes the TAFE NSW Open College Network, incorporating various sections concerned with resource-based learning.

The Open College provides its first generic and custom-designed courses for delivery by business enterprises affected by the Australian Government’s training guarantee levy.

The Open College becomes the TAFE NSW Open Training and Education Network (OTEN), incorporating other small sections of the TAFE NSW Commission.

Regular scheduled delivery via satellite commences; mixed-mode delivery of courses begins in partnership with TAFE Institutes.

The Open Training and Education Network moves from Redfern to a purpose-built facility at Strathfield.

The Open Training and Education Network incorporates the Learning Materials Production Centre and Media Production Unit of the Department of School Education’s Open High School. OTEN’s function thereby becomes the provision of core distance education and open learning services and products for TAFE and the Department of School Education.
OTEN introduces the state-of-the-art electronic Student Administration and Management system (SAM), a fully integrated student records, educational resource and materials supply chain management system.

**2000**

Introduction of the Open Training and Education Network OTEN Learning Support site (OLS) – now known as the 'Online Learning Support' website.

**2002**

As part of the restructuring of the Department of Education and Training, the Open Training and Education Network is placed within the Western Sydney Institute, headed by Directors of Education. Approximately 35,000 students are enrolled in TAFE NSW courses through OTEN.

**2003**

The Open Training and Education Network is divided into two Educational Clusters within the TAFE NSW Western Sydney Institute, headed by Directors of Education. Approximately 35,000 students are enrolled in TAFE NSW courses through OTEN.

**1998**

The Open Training and Education Network is granted Registered Training Organisation (RTO) status.

TAFE NSW, the Department of School Education and the Department of Training and Education Co-ordination become the NSW Department of Education and Training.

A joint venture with the Department of School Education comes to an end and the Open Training and Education Network becomes a TAFE NSW Institute. As an Institute, the Open Training and Education Network is established to provide support and enhance distance and flexibly delivered education and training programs for TAFE NSW customers.

**1997**

1997

1998

**2006**


**2007-2008**

As part of the restructuring of the Department of Education and Training, the Open Training and Education Network is placed within the Western Sydney Institute, but still with its own RTO status.

The learning materials development section of OTEN becomes the Centre for Learning Innovation, operating independently.
OTEN celebrates 100 years of public distance education in NSW.

Western Sydney Institute is named as the 2010 Australian Large Training Provider at the Australian Training Awards.

Student enrolments at OTEN reach 60,000 for the first time.

At the Australian Training Awards 2011, Western Sydney Institute wins the ‘Skills for Sustainability – Educational Institution Award’.

Dear [Name],

We are celebrating 100 years of distance education in New South Wales. You are invited to join us for lunch.

Kind regards,

Cecelia Cilesio
Director of Education, Technology, Arts and Media and OTEN
TAFE NSW - Western Sydney Institute

When: Tuesday, 20 April 2010
12.00pm to 2.00pm

Where: The Courtyard, OTEN
51 Wentworth Rd
Strathfield NSW 2135

RSVP: By 1 April 2010
Lesley Tretter
Ph: 02 9715 8556
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