



MEDIA STATEMENT

Monday, 11th September, 2009

New Placements for Sterling College Students **Industry CEO disappointed by 'ill-informed, reckless' comments**

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training said today that all former Sterling College students who sought assistance from ACPET had now been offered places with alternative training providers in order to continue their studies.

"We have notified every Sterling College student that requested a transition to another education provider and offered them the opportunity to continue their studies with another institution," ACPET CEO, Andrew Smith, said.

Our staff have worked tirelessly with member institutions and relevant authorities to arrange placements for all students in a short timeframe.

"While it has been a challenging and unsettling time for students, this is a good example of our industry's unique and effective consumer protection arrangements at work and I'm delighted that students will be able to continue their studies at no further cost or inconvenience."

Mr Smith said he was disappointed that the process had been made more difficult by ill-informed and reckless comments from some commentators that did more harm than good and left many students confused.

"I am extremely concerned that some commentators chose to create undue alarm or uncertainty among students by suggesting that students were being left "in limbo" or that their visas were at risk, when the advice to students from ACPET and Government representatives never suggested this," Mr Smith said.

"Students were understandably distressed during this period, and frankly it was very unhelpful that some groups seemed intent on capitalizing upon or causing greater distress instead of providing or pointing students to the reliable information that was available to them."

"However, it is very satisfying that our industry has worked collaboratively and we have been able to deliver for those students, who can now continue their studies with no financial disadvantage or further inconvenience."

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