



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**

**Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2009**

**ACPET Welcomes State Government Action Plan**  
**Consultation with Industry 'Essential'**

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training today called on the Victorian Government to consult as a first order of priority with industry to ensure the success of the Action Plan for International Education launched today.

ACPET – the peak body representing the private, post-compulsory, education and training sector in Australia – said effective engagement with industry stakeholders was imperative to ensure good outcomes for students.

“We welcome the State Government’s action plan, however we are concerned that some measures in this plan may lead to substantial student displacement, for which existing consumer protection mechanisms were not designed,” chief executive Andrew Smith said.

“We hope that the state government will consult with industry and representative bodies, including ACPET, to ensure that the key issues, including student displacement, are effectively managed,” he said.

“ACPET certainly does not shy away from taking strong action to uphold the integrity of our sector. Where individual operators have acted inappropriately or failed to meet the existing strict national standards, ACPET supports regulators taking action to improve their performance standards.”

“But such action should be taken in cooperation with ACPET and other stakeholders so that student welfare is the primary focus and that our industry’s reputation continues to be held in high regard around the world,” Mr Smith said.

“We certainly welcome the majority of initiatives in this strategy, but we do hope that the Victorian Government will do the right thing by students and consult with ACPET and other stakeholders to ensure good outcomes for students.

[ACPET has taken a number of proactive steps in recent months to address key issues affecting Australia’s international education industry. In the coming months, ACPET will continue to strengthen our industry through professional development for educational institutions, provision of reliable student information, comprehensive student and industry analysis and forging stronger links with key stakeholders.](#)

**ANDREW SMITH IS AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT**

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