

Membership Information

Introduction

ACPET is the peak body representing the private education and training sector in Australia. With over 1,200 member organisations, located in all States and Territories, ACPET is committed to providing a range of quality services to members and ensuring the significant contribution of the private sector to education and training in Australia is recognised. Our goal is to assist members to deliver quality private education and training services and ensure a level playing field for all providers across all jurisdictions.

ACPET participates in private education and training policy development and is regularly invited to represent member interests on government and industry working parties, workshops and stakeholder forums. ACPET also actively communicates with members to keep them updated on relevant news about policy reform, trends and other relevant information to allow early identification of issues and opportunities. ACPET members also enjoy a range of opportunities to network with other industry professionals.

Ultimately ACPET works to ensure that education and training students, domestic and international, have a genuine choice of quality education and training providers in Australia.

Why join ACPET?

ACPET advocates market-driven private education and training as a means of generating increased skills development, employment and wealth across Australia.

Private providers in Australia need a strong voice to promote the choice and diversity that the private sector offers and influence the legislation, regulations, compliance requirements and policies which affect the business environment in which they operate.

By joining ACPET, you contribute to the collective voice of the private tertiary sector and benefit from a range of services to

enhance your business, the quality of your education and training offering, and contribute to Australia's impressive reputation as a leader in tertiary education and training.

Membership Options

ACPET has three membership options.

ACPET membership is available to privately owned, registered providers of education and training. This includes providers of higher education, vocational and technical education, English language training, schools, foundation studies and pathway programs.

Affiliate membership is open to individuals who do not deliver accredited education or training but have significant involvement in the private education sector, typically as a consultant. Affiliate members share most of the benefits of full membership, but are not eligible for ACPET administered Tuition Assurance Schemes.

Partner in Education membership reflects the increasingly complex tertiary environment where we encourage agents or brokers, international and publicly-owned providers (who are committed to a contestable tertiary education sector) to join ACPET. Partner in Education membership allows ACPET to offer a form of membership, and ASTAS cover if required, to these organisations.

New members in all three membership categories are classed as Associate members for the first 12 months. This allows time for ACPET to engage with the new member, understand more about their business and operations and assess their commitment to upholding ACPET's Codes before being considered for full membership.

Members having difficulty conforming to ACPET's Codes may be conferred Conditional membership status while identified issues are addressed.

Benefits of membership

ACPET members are part of a collaborative and highly professional network of private providers and consultants that abide by a Code of Ethics. Members benefit from:

- advocacy on relevant policies and issues identified through consultation with members
- exclusive access to ACPET's Tuition Assurance Schemes to meet HESA Act 2003 and/ or ASQA compliance requirements under the Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015
- representation on state/territory/federal working parties, to advance the interests of private education and training providers and consultants
- discounted rates to attend the annual ACPET National Conference, the annual Asia-Pacific International Education Forum, and state based forums and events
- participation in ACPET international trade missions and events, to explore off- and on-shore business opportunities
- a range of member-only services including:
 - » discounted access to our national professional development framework, designed to promote innovation and best practice
 - » confidential Higher Education Provider benchmarking services to improve business performance, and strengthen corporate and academic governance
 - » exclusive promotion to career practitioners, international education agents and other stakeholders through ACPET's Catalogue of members
 - » member deals on goods and services from ACPET partner organisations relevant to the education and training industry.
 - » independent regulatory and quality endorsement reviews to confirm quality practices and high value outcomes for students.

ACPET Constitution, By-laws and Code of Ethics

ACPET is committed to the quality provision of private education and training and promotes accuracy in advertising, fair trade and consumer choice. The ACPET Code of Ethics affirms the professional standards expected of education and training providers and consultants in relation to the management, marketing and delivery of education and training services.

Members are required to act with integrity in all dealings with stakeholders including students (past, present and future), employers, government organisations and private enterprises.

All members are obliged to abide by the ACPET Constitution, ACPET By-Laws and ACPET Code of Ethics, and failure to do so, may result in termination of the membership.

Board and Management

ACPET is owned and governed by its members. ACPET is structured as an incorporated, not-for-profit company and is administered by a Board in accordance with the requirements of corporations' law. The ACPET Board comprises eight positions elected by the membership and any financial member is eligible to stand. The ACPET Board elects two office bearers annually, the Chair and Deputy Chair, and both serve in an honorary capacity.

ACPET employs a Chief Executive Officer and a number of full and part-time staff.

Members' fees support the operation and staffing of ACPET's offices across Australia and the costs of day-to-day activities including handling enquiries, responding to government requests, advocacy efforts, promotional activities and member communications. Members' fees also fund research and reports on the impact of private providers in Australia's tertiary education sector. ACPET does not receive recurrent government funding.

Application process

New applicants complete an application form and supply supporting documentation to the ACPET Membership Office. Applications must be completed by an Authorised Person. Note that Membership Fee payments are not made with the initial application.

Once received, applications are classified as pending until a review and approval process has been completed. Final approval is dependent on the acceptance of the applicant by the ACPET Board.

ACPET reserves the right to seek the views of its members and others to inform its judgement of an applicant's suitability. Once the ACPET Board has approved the application, the applicant will be awarded Associate membership and sent a tax invoice for the appropriate membership fee. Credit card payments will attract a merchant fee.

ACPET Membership is renewed each year in line with the financial year.

ACPET membership fees

The exact category of membership is determined by the total gross annual turnover of the organisation for revenue received from all training activity including student tuition (local and overseas), fee for service training and all government and employer funded placements. The bands of turnover and their corresponding membership categories are detailed in the ACPET Schedule of Fees.

For more information contact the ACPET Membership team on

1800 657 644 or **membership@acpet.edu.au**