MEDIA STATEMENT
30th August 2012

Tertiary education conference highlights thriving, evolving, sector

Sydney plays host to Australia’s largest gathering of private tertiary education and training experts today and tomorrow in a conference expected to shine a spotlight on a sector that is rapidly changing within Australia and internationally.

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) National Conference brings together almost 500 delegates from industry, academia, politics and government to highlight the latest developments, thinking, opportunities and challenges for tertiary education in an increasingly global marketplace.

ACPET CEO, Claire Field, said the diversity of ACPET’s membership, spanning foundation skills, vocational education and training, higher education and international education providers, would be reflected in a program that highlights just how much private tertiary education has matured in recent decades.

“This is a watershed conference for ACPET, not just because it marks our 20th anniversary as the voice of private tertiary education, but also because we have reached a turning point when private providers are moving from the margins of the tertiary sector into the mainstream,” Ms Field said.

“The national debate about funding reform and fiery exchanges of views about what Australian tertiary education should look like in years to come is a very good thing for students, industry and the broader community alike. ACPET will play host to some of that debate over the next two days with presentations from all major political parties,” Ms Field said.

Ms Field added that she was delighted this year’s conference had such a distinctly international focus.

“Many Australians still don’t fully appreciate that international education is one of our top five exports. As a nation we should be enormously proud of that, and I’m certainly proud that ACPET and its members are leading the industry in international education.”

“This year ACPET established a presence in China. Our members are delivering education offshore in places as diverse as Manhattan and Hyderabad. And right now ACPET members host more than 180,000 international students from almost 150 nations,” she said.

“We’re welcoming more affiliate associations and international experts to the ACPET National Conference than ever before as the way we look at tertiary education continues to change, with an international approach to future education and skills demand increasingly important, particularly here within the Asia Pacific region.”

Media Invitation:

What: ACPET National Conference
When: Thursday 30th August to Friday 31st August
Where: Westin Hotel, Sydney
Conference program: www.acpet2012.com.au
Media must register to attend by contacting Ben Eade, below

MEDIA CONTACT: Ben Eade on 0406 641 881