ACPET welcomes the commencement of Queensland training reforms

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) welcomes the commencement of contestable training initiatives from the Newman Government’s five year Vocational Education and Training plan – Great Skills. Real Opportunities.

ACPET Chief Executive Officer Claire Field acknowledged the five year plan as an outcome of the Skills and Training Taskforce final report.

“Reform is vital for the health of training in Queensland and the commencement of the ‘Certificate III Guarantee’ is an important step forward in achieving real training sector reforms in Queensland.” Claire Field said.

The reforms are an important transition from a largely provider-led, government focused system to one which can be genuinely responsive to the needs of industry and delivers training for the Queensland jobs market.

“ACPET supports changes to introduce a student entitlement to learning as part of these reforms. Providing individuals with greater choice in where they study enables them to choose the best training provider for their needs. Evidence over the past twenty years shows that when offered a choice of training provider, an increasing number of learners and employers choose a private or community-based provider. “

“ACPET’s members have a strong track record of delivering training in close partnership with Queensland businesses, and in communities right across the state. ACPET members are well-placed to connect student course choices with local employment opportunities.”

“However, implementation will be critical in the success of the proposed reforms. The government must ensure that right across Queensland the changes are well communicated to the community and local employers.”

Whilst the introduction of entitlement and contestability in Queensland is to be commended, Claire Field believes that “more thinking, modelling, planning and consultation lies ahead during the first year of trialling reforms in Queensland to ensure major budgetary over expenditure does not occur and that the school leaver market in 2014 is well provided for.”

“ACPET continues to support the roll out of skills reforms across the country. An entitlement to training and allowing students to choose who they study with is revolutionising the training sector, meeting the needs of individual and enterprise needs.”

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