MEDIA RELEASE
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The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) commends the Labor Party’s Jobs for Growth policy which aims to ensure that students in country towns, people from low socio-economic backgrounds and those who require literacy and numeracy support, have access to affordable, high quality training.

ACPET has however, raised concerns with some elements of Jobs for Growth, specifically the notion that only TAFE can deliver training in the regions or to disadvantaged people.

“Labor’s commitment to ensuring that Victorians are on the path to employment is welcome”, ACPET CEO Claire Field said.

“The best way to achieve this – in rural areas and right across the State is by providing individuals with a choice of the training provider they study with.”

Data released in the Victorian Training Market Quarterly Report, Q 3 2012, clearly shows that Victorian industry and individuals are gaining from current vocational education and training policies.

“The report reveals that training is taking place in areas where skill needs are greatest, with an increase of 37,500 enrolments above the same time last year in occupations that are specialised or in shortage. In addition, the report demonstrates the important role the private training sector plays in supporting disadvantaged learners, through the provision of tailored and individualised services.” ACPET CEO, Claire Field said.

“Despite the myths and misinformation coming from a variety of sources, the reality is private providers are getting on with the job of skilling Victoria. They are providing training across a whole range of occupations and at all skill levels. They are providing life changing education and training to young people at risk, women returning to work, learners in rural areas, newly arrived migrants and Australians with a disability” Ms Field said.

“The continuing call for TAFE to be the only provider of training to people in rural areas and those from disadvantaged backgrounds does learners and TAFE a disservice.” Ms Field said.

“The increase in students enrolling with private training providers in Victoria since the Labor Government introduced the Victorian Training Guarantee clearly shows that when given the choice students and employers are choosing a private provider.”

“If the ALP is serious about wanting to provide all learners with life changing training opportunities then they need policies which continue to offer them the option of studying with the training provider that best meets their individual needs.”

Claire Field is available for comment: 0411 240 671