ACPET welcomes investment in skills and training

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) has welcomed this week’s announcements by the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and the Minister for Employment, Skills and Training, the Hon Brendan O’Connor to invest in skills and training for a range of industries.

Prime Minister Rudd said that a re-elected Labor Government will provide an extra $35.6 million to train around 6,800 new and existing workers in the manufacturing sector and to help manage an economy in transition and invest $30 million over two years in training and improving the skills of 5,800 extra services workers in the aged and disability care sectors and in other community services areas including early childhood, nursing and allied health care.

ACPET CEO Claire Field welcomed the announcement, which she said was an important step towards meeting the growth in demand for skilled workers throughout a range of industries.

“The training sector is well aware of the looming skills shortages, in particular within the aged care and childcare sectors.” said Ms Field.

“Targeted skills training, delivered by high quality providers is the key to developing the workforces of the future. ACPET members throughout Australia already work closely with employers and are well-placed to ensure there is a return for all on greater investment in skills development

“There is an array of global opportunities for Australian businesses that have a highly skilled and well trained workforce in the manufacturing sectors like food, plastics and chemicals, automotive manufacturing and medical devices.

“We note that the Prime Minister has indicated that additional training places will be delivered through the National Workforce Development Fund (NWDF), which funds training through a co-contribution approach with business.

While ACPET supports this co-contribution approach, we look forward to the release of more data on NWDF projects to gauge the real outcomes of ongoing investment in skills training through the co-contribution model”, said Ms Field.

Claire Field is available for comment: 0411 240 671