What is ACPET?

ACPET is the Australian Council for Private Education and Training - the national industry association for independent providers of post-compulsory education and training, for Australian and international students, including:

- Higher Education
- Vocational Education and Training
- English Language Courses
- Senior Secondary Studies
- Foundation Studies

ACPET's Mission

ACPET’s purpose is to enhance quality, choice, innovation and diversity in Australian education and training for individual, national and global development. ACPET also seeks to work pro-actively and co-operatively with government, education and training providers, industry and community organisations, in order to ensure that vocational and higher education and training services provide choice and diversity, and well-targeted, appropriately delivered courses which are widely accessible and of high quality.
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At the end of this year we saw the provision of Tuition Assurance for Overseas Students (OSTAS) draw to a close. This is a truly significant change for ACPET and one which I am pleased to say that ACPET is ready to take advantage of.

As members will know, ACPET commenced operations some twenty years ago, at a time when the private tertiary sector was still largely in its infancy. Early on, ACPET members showed leadership and a deep and abiding commitment to the welfare of their students with the development of the OSTAS scheme to protect students’ pre-paid fees. Historically a substantial proportion of ACPET’s funding has come from OSTAS fees. In addition to managing placements for students affected by college closures, these revenues have also been invested in staff, systems and advocacy on behalf of our international members.

The 2011-12 saw ACPET finalise a major restructure of its operations. At the same time the organisation upon efforts in the previous year to improve its advocacy and service delivery to members. These internal changes see the organisation well-positioned for the future.

It has been pleasing to see that the changes which have been introduced into the organisation in recent years have been welcomed by members. The Board and I were particularly pleased to see 86.3% of members surveyed in February 2012 indicated satisfaction with ACPET’s efforts. This is a substantial increase in satisfaction levels when compared with previous surveys and reflects well on the changes being delivered by ACPET. ACPET is certainly not resting on its laurels with regard to member satisfaction, and the Board and I have found the opportunities to meet with ACPET members in different cities prior to each Board meeting have given us greater insights into the challenges members are facing and how ACPET can assist.

One area where members have indicated they are pleased to see change is in the introduction of a transparent application process for membership of the Board’s state and national sub-committees. While a majority of members gave a clear response in the membership survey that they do not wish to be more involved in ACPET’s governance, a growing number of members are keen for more involvement.

The introduction of an initial period of appointment for sub-committee membership of one year allows the Board the chance to bring fresh perspectives onto its sub-committees while still keeping continuity in areas where that is important.

This year the Board continued its efforts to remove poor quality tertiary providers from the membership with four members terminated. In addition we continued to hold applicants for membership to close scrutiny by the broader membership through ACPET’s improved processes and risk assessments. I anticipate a number of members that ACPET is currently investigating will choose to not renew their membership in 2012-13. This is good news for the rest of the membership and underpins ACPET’s explicit strategy of seeking to only represent the best of the private sector.

In terms of its advocacy, the annual report makes clear the substantial changes occurring in the sector and the benefits they will bring to ACPET members, their students and stakeholders. ACPET’s advocacy work, shaped and led by the Board’s national sub-committees for VET, higher education and international education, attest to ACPET’s growing relevance and leadership within the sector. Despite these efforts, some policy arguments are far from won and over-regulation remains an ongoing challenge for the sector and ACPET’s members.

2011-12 saw ACPET finalise arrangements for a new presence in China. The objectives of ACPET China are to promote ACPET members and their capabilities in China and identify business opportunities for members. Ultimately we are looking to ensure the Chinese government has confidence in ACPET members, allowing more students the option of studying at an ACPET member institution in either Australia or China. This important initiative is an historic one (not unlike OSTAS at its inception). It is the first time ACPET has had an offshore presence and, to my knowledge, is the only peak body in the education sector to do so.

In reflecting on twelve months of activity and my first year as Chair I am mindful of the work done by Directors - all of whom are volunteers in their roles on the Board. This year saw a number of changes in Board membership, and the 2012-13 heralds similar changes. While renewal at Board level is crucial to any organisation’s viability - it remains for the members and the next Board to reflect on whether the current Constitution delivers too much change each year. That said, I can’t fault the substantial efforts of those who have worked alongside me this year and I thank all Directors, and particularly my Deputy, Mel Koumides, for their commitment to, and strategic leadership of, ACPET this year. By the time you receive this report - the elections for the 2012-13 year will have concluded. I am standing for election - if I am re-elected I look forward to more time to shape and drive ACPET’s strategic agenda. If the members decide it is time for a new NSW Director then I wish them all the best and I also pass on my best wishes to a new Chair.

“The 2011-12 financial year has been one which, when we look back, we will reflect on as a watershed for ACPET.”

Martin Cass
ACPET Chair
July 2011

ACPET presented papers at the Council for International Students Australia (CISA) Conference and the Building a Successful International Education Strategy Conference - both held in Melbourne. ACPET was also represented at the annual NAIDOC Awards. ACPET also participated in a high level review of VET FEE-HELP implementation, and was consulted as part of the Victorian government’s review of its international education engagement. ACPET WA hosted a private provider forum and the National Board met in Perth. The Board meeting included a reception event with ACPET WA members and a meeting with the WA State Committee.

August 2011

ACPET’s Chair, Kay Ganley, Chair of the Board’s International Committee, Russell Welch, and CEO Claire Field visited China with a number of ACPET members as part of an Australian Government trade mission. There was enormous amount of interest shown by Chinese government and education sector officials in developing partnerships with quality Australian private providers. The 5-day, 5 city trade mission was led by Trade Minister Dr Craig Emerson and comprised 100 delegates from across the services sector.

ACPET’s Asia-Pacific International Education Forum was held in Darwin attended by 9 international delegates.

The ACPET Annual Conference, held in Brisbane was attended by 483 delegates. The theme for the conference was ‘The future of tertiary education’.

September 2011

ACPET CEO and Deputy CEO attended the annual conference of the New Zealand Association of Private Education Providers.

The Knight Review of Student Visas was released. This report, along with the Baird Review recommendations, provide the new policy framework for Australia’s international education industry. ACPET welcomed the Federal Government’s response to the Knight Review but expressed concern that the recommendations focused predominantly on the university sector and challenged Knight’s assertion that the future of international education in the VET sector is ‘offshore’.

The Tuition Protection Service (TPS) legislation to protect international students’ pre-paid tuition fees was made public.

ACPET CEO and International Engagement Manager took a small delegation of ACPET members to China, visiting Beijing and Chongqing. The visit built on the CEO’s earlier visit and incorporated a number of meeting with key Chinese government officials and tertiary education providers.

The ACPET National Board met in Sydney. The Board also met formally with the NSW State Committee, followed by a reception with members. This was the first meeting of the new Board.

Martin Cass the NSW Director was elected Chair, and Mel Koumides the Victorian Director was elected as Deputy Chair.

Submission to the Western Australian government’s ‘Review of entitlement based funding model for the Western Australian VET system’

October 2011

ACPET’s former Chair, Kay Ganley; Chair of the Board’s International Education Committee, Russell Welch; ACPET’s CEO, Claire Field and International Engagement Manager, Ingeborg Loon presented papers at the Australian International Education Conference (AIEC) in Adelaide. The AIEC is one of the largest international education conferences in the Asia Pacific region and one of the pre-eminent international education conferences in the world.

At the conference Senator Evans, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Science and Research, announced the establishment of a new International Education Advisory Council to develop a strategic plan for international education. ACPET’s CEO, Claire Field, was appointed to the Council.

ACPET’s Skilled for Success and Access and Equity case studies publications, profiling the diversity and compassion of the ACPET membership were launched during National Skills Week at a function hosted by ACPET member MEGT in Sydney.

ACPET made three submissions - to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment – Inquiry into the ESOS Tuition Protection Service Bills, a response to the Strategic Review of the Student Visa Program 2011 (Knight Review), and a response to a NSW Senate inquiry into international student accommodation.

November 2011

Eighteen ACPET members were represented at the ICEF Agents’ Workshop in Berlin November 2011. ACPET hosted a lunch for agents interested in expanding into the Australian market and the CEO delivered a presentation on “Australian Private Education: the Quality Choice”.

The ACPET National Board met in Brisbane and met with the QLD State Committee, followed by a reception with members. The CEO joined key industry officials and State and Territory Ministers at the SCOTEBE Industry Forum to discuss key areas of focus for the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development, prior to the meeting of the Standing Council on Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment.

CEO, Claire Field invited to join the NSW Deputy Premier’s Taskforce on International Education and Research, to develop a 10 year action plan for the sector, including two year and five year goals.

ACPET made two submissions: to Smart and Skilled: Making NSW number one (the NSW government’s consultations on VET reform), and the inquiry into the Vocational Education and Training (Commonwealth Powers) and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2011.
December 2011

Each State office organised a Christmas function inviting members and key stakeholders to celebrate ACPET’s achievements.

January 2012

Both ACPET’s Western Australia and Queensland offices relocated in January. The new offices provide a fresh and professional image for members and guests who visit.

ACPET’s state-based professional development program was replaced by a national approach, the ACPET Professional Development Program. ACPET’s new national PD program links to the national quality standards for VET, higher education and international education and assists members to operate their business more efficiently and effectively. Individuals who attend ACPET’s PD workshops and seminars earn ACPET Peer+ Points and ACPET member organisations earn College Points.

ACPET Victoria commenced a new relationship with the Careers Education Association of VIC (CEAV) and promoted its members at the CEAV Biannual Conference, through workshops and a Trade Stall.

ACPET made two submissions – firstly a Federal Pre Budget Submission, and a submission on the TEQSA schedule of proposed fees for registration and course accreditation.

February 2012

Sydney was host to ACPET’s 20th anniversary celebrations, including forums on apprenticeships and international education issues, and culminating in a gala dinner. The dinner saw the formal launch of the 2012 ACPET Awards for Excellence.

ACPET’s CEO, Claire Field, participated in the Victorian Premier’s Super Trade Mission to India, representing ACPET’s Victorian members, alongside relevant Ministers, TAFE CEOs and university vice-chancellors.

ACPET’s International Engagement Manager, Ingeborg Loon, presented a paper at the ANZA Agents’ Workshop in Queenstown, New Zealand. The workshop offered a unique opportunity for New Zealand and Australian providers of education, work and youth travel services to meet agents who advise many thousands of students and travellers to Australasia.

ACPET developed and implemented a campaign to highlight the inequity of transport concessions for international students in both NSW and Victoria. The campaign – which was ongoing in June 2012 – received strong support from other education peak bodies, including the Council of International Students Australia, as well as from the Federal Government.

ACPET became a member of the inaugural Victorian International Education Cluster (VIEC) Steering Committee. The VIEC is a state government export trade cluster initiative, with consortia projects in Indonesia and Philippines.

ACPET’s Deputy CEO, Michael Hall, appeared before a Senate Enquiry into the Tuition Protection Service for international students.

The ACPET National Board met in Sydney and held its annual planning day. At this meeting the Board reviewed a detailed cost-benefit analysis on the establishment of a China office for ACPET and gave formal approval.

ACPET made two submissions, one to the Federal government’s development of a white paper on the role of Australia in the Asian Century and the second to the Productivity Commission’s review of the Impacts of COAG reforms.

March 2012

Upon announcement by the state government of its Review of the Public Training Institutes in Tasmania, ACPET coordinated a response and organised a series of private provider consultations in Hobart and Launceston.

ACPET CEO, Claire Field, made a speech to the CEDA Forum on The Future of Higher Education in Australia; and to the annual Australian Education International (AEI) briefing - for AEI representatives from across the world and other international education stakeholders. ACPET’s Chair, Martin Cass and Deputy Chair, Mel Koumides attended the event.

The 2012 International Student Festival was organised by the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet. ACPET hosted a marquee at the event, where a number of ACPET members and student volunteers celebrated the great student experience on offer in Sydney.

ACPET made three submissions, to the:

- Fair Work Australia Review of Modern Awards - MA00075, Education Services (Post-Secondary Education) Award 2010
- Review of Student Visa Assessment Level Framework
- NSW Industry Action Plan for International Education and Research

April 2012

The National Board met in Adelaide and also took the opportunity to meet with the South Australian State Committee and members.

ACPET Queensland held a State Forum on the Sunshine Coast. Themed ‘Navigating uncertainty – Creating opportunities’ the day provided a chance for members to engage with industry and were encouraged by various speakers to ‘think differently’

ACPET CEO, Claire Field, appeared at a House of Representatives Roundtable on International Education.

ACPET made three national submissions to the Inquiry into the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator (Charges) Bill 2012, the Enquiry into Migration Legislation Amendment (Student Visas) Bill 2012 and the Skills Australia Amendment (Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency) Bill 2012.
ACPET hosted 2012 Australia India VET Engagement Forums in Melbourne and Sydney with the Australian Vocational Training and Employment Group, providing background information and business relationships for ACPET members.

May 2012

ACPET’s Company Secretary (and Deputy CEO), Michael Hall and ACPET Board member, Larry Davies conducted national consultations with members on proposed changes to the ACPET Constitution ahead of the 2012 Annual General Meeting.

ACPET conducted a comprehensive benchmarking study into international student satisfaction with data collected from 49 member institutions and approximately 12,000 international students.

At the request of ACPET members, ACPET developed and launched a VET Business Benchmarking Service in 2012, to assist ACPET members in improving their business operations and better manage changes to government policy and funding.

ACPET made submissions to the consultation on the draft Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council’s policy on its regulatory responsibilities under Section 50 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act, and to the TEQSA 2012 Provider Information Request.

June 2012

ACPET signed an MOU with the Federation of Private Technological and Vocational Colleges of Thailand (FPCT) to build stronger links with the Australian private tertiary education and training sector.

The ACPET Board met in Melbourne and had a formal meeting with the Victorian State Committee as well as a reception with members. At the reception, ACPET signed an MOU with the Career Industry Council of Australia - to increase awareness of the private tertiary sector by careers advisors.

Release of Volume One, Issue One of the ACPET Journal for Private Higher Education.

ACPET surveyed members on the effects of the newly introduced Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE) on student visa refusals. As a result, ACPET presented more than 200 examples of questionable refusals to Minister Bowen and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.


ACPET’s new national PD program links to the national quality standards for VET, higher education and international education and assists members to operate their business more efficiently and effectively.
Our Core Purpose
Through its leadership, ACPET enhances and promotes the role of private tertiary education in order to achieve the highest quality educational outcomes for individuals for the benefit of themselves, their employers and the public interest.

2011-2013 Strategic Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relevance to members and stakeholders</th>
<th>Leadership and competitive positioning of ACPET and its members</th>
<th>Growth to ensure a sustainable future for ACPET</th>
<th>People and Culture</th>
<th>Ensuring ACPET is fit for purpose</th>
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</thead>
</table>

2011-2013 Strategic Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effective and valued services to members</th>
<th>Ongoing development and review of products and services to ensure value to members</th>
<th>Mutually beneficial partnerships with leading industry bodies and stakeholders</th>
<th>Professional learning programs that keep members up to date with the changing sector</th>
<th>ACPET will:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Influencing nationally and regionally</td>
<td>A widely recognised ACPET brand, known as the ‘quality stamp’ in the industry</td>
<td>Effective, visionary and well publicized thought leadership initiatives that have a positive impact on the sector</td>
<td></td>
<td>○ Be a primary influencer of decision makers respected for its strategic thought leadership;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic and regional positioning of members to support their individual marketing activities</td>
<td>Attracting quality new members</td>
<td>High levels of member retention</td>
<td>Strategic risk management activities</td>
<td>○ Present an educational brand that is recognised as the benchmark for educational and ethical standards;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong leadership that is innovative, proactive and responsive</td>
<td>Best practice in recruitment, development and retention</td>
<td>Key people recognised as experts in their fields</td>
<td></td>
<td>○ Build the capacity of members through the delivery of relevant, cost effective services and the provision of timely information;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintaining a sound financial position</td>
<td>Improved knowledge management</td>
<td>Infrastructure and processes responsive to member needs</td>
<td></td>
<td>○ Be a sustainable organisation that will deliver for members into the future.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Our Values

- Respect
- Integrity
- Commitment
- Honesty

Creating futures
Board of Directors

Top Row (from left to right):
Sean Mahoney, George Brown, Gurdeep Singh Dhillon, Richard Finlayson, Larry Davies

Bottom Row (from left to right):
Nicole Gayewski, Mel Koumides, Martin Cass, Jenny Field

Martin Cass
National Chair
Director representing NSW (since 2008)

Mel Koumides
Deputy Chair
Director representing Victoria (since 2010)

George Brown
Chair
Higher Education Committee Director representing Category 8 & Corporate members(since 2010)

Larry Davies
Chair
Governance Audit and Risk Committee and Director (since 2007)

Gurdeep Singh Dhillon
Director representing Category 2, 3, 4 Members (since 2011)

Jenny Field
Director representing Queensland (since 2011)

Richard Finlayson
Chair Vocational Education and Training (VET) Committee Director representing SA (since 2010)

Nicole Gayewski
Director representing Tasmania (since 2011)

Sean Mahoney
Chief Executive
Northern Territory (since 2011)

Russell Welch
Chair International Education Committee, Director representing Category 5,6, & 7 members (since 2008) and Chair International Education Committee

Board Members who resigned or retired:
Kay Ganley retired by rotation 5 September 2011
Lisa Materano resigned 15 March 2012
Elaine Robb retired by rotation 5 September 2011
James Ryan resigned 7 May 2012
Richard Teo resigned 16 September 2011
Our People

Claire Field
Chief Executive Officer

Michael Hall
Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Northern Territory

Charlotte Baird
Membership Manager

Maria Langwell
Victoria and Tasmania Executive Officer

Matthew Traynor
Queensland Executive Officer

Helen Gregory
Executive Secretary

Keith Kearney
Communications Manager

Joy De Leo
South Australia Executive Officer

Dennis Katsoulakos
Chief Financial Officer

Nick Oklobdzija
Member Services Manager

Trevor McCrystal
Western Australia Executive Officer

Ben Vivekanandan
Policy and Research Manager

Catherine Kearney
New South Wales Executive Officer

Ingeborg Loon
International Engagement Manager

Karen Langwell
International Engagement Manager

Catherine Kearney
New South Wales Executive Officer

Annual Report 2012
ACPET celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2012 with a series of forums and seminars held in Sydney on 2 and 3 February.

The celebration culminated with a Gala Dinner on the evening of 3 February.

Professional Development Events

During the afternoon of Thursday 2 February and all day Friday 3 February, ACPET hosted a series of professional development events for those attending the 20th anniversary gala dinner.

The international education sector focussed on three key areas:

1. An update on the Knight Review changes and what these changes meant for RTO business. Fifty-five members attended the informative and interactive session on the Knight Review to hear Ingeborg Loon, ACPET’s International Engagement Manager and Paula Williams from DIAC outline what the Knight Review means for the private education and training sector. Members had the opportunity to share their thoughts and concerns particularly around streamlined visa processing and post study work rights for the private sector.

2. An overview of opportunities for private tertiary providers in China was attended by more than 35 members, with presentations and insights by Austrade’s National Education Manager, Quentin Stevenson-Perks, Ingeborg Loon and ACPET member Edward Keller, Managing Director of Academy of Information Technology, who shared his experience operating in China for the last decade.

3. How to Improve your marketing success in India with presentations by Ingeborg Loon, Sheba Nandkeolyar, Vice President of the Australia India Business Council and a case study by Queensland member, Australian Retail College which generated much animated discussion.

An apprenticeship forum was led by Mary Dickie, one of the lead authors of the recently released report A fair deal: apprentices and their employers in NSW identifying how better matching apprentices with employers increases completion rates and satisfaction, plus the role RTOs can play in ensuring a ‘fair deal’.

ACPET also hosted a higher education/business forum which included presentations by Mary-Anne Sakkara, DISRTE who provided a policy perspective on the role of higher education in meeting the needs of business and the community, Alex Malley, CEO CPA Australia who spoke about the challenges of raising productivity and increasing prosperity in a higher education context and Shirley Leitch, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Swinburne University of Technology who explained how the Swinburne Online Partnership with SEEK delivers online courses that provide students with the skills, knowledge and attributes that meet the requirements of business and industry. George Brown, Think Education, Jenny Lambert, ACCI and Kathy Rankin, TAFE NSW held a panel discussion ‘responding to the needs of business and the community’ which was facilitated by Andrew Norton. Daniel Edwards, ACER finished the morning with a session on Graduate outcomes – being workforce ready.

Gala dinner

Over 250 ACPET members, staff and stakeholders attended a gala dinner at Doltone House on the foreshore of Sydney Harbour. ACPET was delighted to welcome past and present ACPET Board members and Chief Executive Officers, leaders from government and industry, and ACPET members and their staff.

A video presentation chronicled ACPET’s achievements during the over the past two decades and a live band entertained guests throughout the evening.

A highlight of the evening was the launch of the ACPET Awards for Excellence to recognise outstanding performance by ACPET members in the following categories:

- Higher Education Provider of the Year
- VET Provider of the Year
- ELICOS Provider of the Year
- Dual Sector Provider of the Year
- VET in Schools Provider of the Year
- International Provider of the Year
- Industry Initiative
- International initiative (on or offshore)
- Social Inclusion Initiative
- Teacher of the Year
- Student of the Year
ACPET’s National Professional Development Framework was launched in January 2012 to provide members with professional development opportunities which assist them with identifying and acting on new business development opportunities, and in complying with relevant regulatory requirements for tertiary education.

All workshops offered to members which can assist with compliance requirements are directly mapped to the relevant national quality standards for the vocational education and training (VET), higher education and international education sectors.

The framework has been developed around four streams:

- business development (focussed on new business opportunities)
- business management and administration
- teaching and learning, and
- student engagement and support.

Intermediate and advanced courses are offered within each stream to cater for a range of staff needs. ACPET also offers regular two-hour introductory webinars – ‘Introduction to VET’, ‘Introduction to CRICOS’ and ‘Introduction to higher education’.

Benefits

ACPET members benefit from the compliance focus and business development opportunities offered through the ACPET Professional Development Framework.

Quality and Continuous Improvement

Increasing the skills and knowledge of staff results in more efficient and effective business operations, improves student outcomes and enhances market reputation.

ACPET’s framework maps professional development to each aspect of a tertiary provider’s business, allowing members to tackle any compliance issues they might have before they become a regulatory problem, and to induct new staff into the relevant quality standards. ACPET’s framework also includes information sessions on new business opportunities in emerging markets in Australia and offshore.

Compliance

The ACPET framework ensures providers meet their obligations to improve and maintain their educators’ teaching and assessment practices. Managers and administrative staff are also catered for, ensuring compliance with current tertiary sector requirements. Most importantly ACPET’s Professional Development framework is a national one offering members across the opportunity the chance to participate and benefit.

Acreditation for Professional Development

ACPET’s Professional Development Framework includes an accreditation system to keep track of an individual’s, and an organisation’s, professional development activity. This means that when faced with an audit, providers are easily able to provide auditors with a record of all of their professional development activities.

Peer+ Points

Professional Development points are allocated to individuals for each activity they undertake. Points are allocated on the basis of the type and duration of the professional development being undertaken. Points are allocated to an individual when they complete all tasks associated with the PD activity and return a feedback form within one week of attendance. Individual points are also allocated for attendance at the annual ACPET national conference.

### Member Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Registrations</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adelaide</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brisbane</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hobart</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perth</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamworth</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Face-to-face | 84 | 1,342 | 16 |
| Webinar           | 16 | 279   | 17 |

**Grand Total** 100 1,621 16

In 2011-12 ACPET held 84 workshops in 8 locations. In addition, 16 online webinars were held as part of the Framework.
To recognise continual professional development, an individual who accumulates 80 Peer points or more in one calendar year will become an ACPET Peer. Earning 60 points or more in subsequent years will ensure individuals retain their ACPET Peer status. ACPET Peers will be publicly recognised and receive a discount on future PD activities.

College Points

Only ACPET member institutions are eligible to accrue college points – one college point is earned each time a staff member attends a professional development activity. The College points provide a bonus for those organisations that regularly provide professional development for their staff. Based on the number of participants in a calendar year, and the membership category of each organisation, between one and three free half-day workshops will be available to ACPET members in the following calendar year.

Tuition Assurance Schemes

In 2011/2012 ACPET governed and operated two Tuition Assurance Schemes (TAS):

- the Australian Student Tuition Assurance Scheme (ASTAS) and
- the Overseas Student Tuition Assurance Scheme (OSTAS).

These two schemes were the foundation of Australia’s unique consumer protection framework for private education and training.

ACPET’s Tuition Assurance Schemes provided for members to collectively bear the cost of supporting students in the event of college closures. ACPET managed the transfer of displaced students to a comparable course at another member institution with minimal disruption to student learning.

In 2011-2012, the Overseas Student Tuition Assurance Scheme (OSTAS) was activated on eight occasions, affecting 1,797 students. ACPET was able to contact 1,345 of these students and make offers to them. A total of 924 students (69%) accepted the offer made. The majority of those students who did not accept the offer, chose to make their own placement arrangements.

Throughout the year, ACPET members willingly supported students to enable them to continue their studies, and in a number of cases members provided students with assistance over and above their OSTAS obligations.

The last few years have been difficult for international education providers. In this uncertain environment a number of member colleges closed but ACPET’s OSTAS was not activated as the college either: taught the remaining students out; gave a refund to the students, or arranged with another ACPET member to take the students. We thank these members for doing the right thing on behalf of their students and the industry as a whole.

Two higher education (FEE-HELP) members closed in this period. ACPET’s ASTAS was not activated because, in neither case, were the students owed for pre-paid tuition fees. ACPET supported affected students to continue their study with new institutions.

It is a credit to the private education and training sector that ACPET members have maintained their commitment to underwriting the consumer protection arrangements for Australian and overseas students far beyond their legislative requirements. This support came at a time when the entire industry was under extreme pressure. Their commitment deserves the thanks and support of the entire industry.

We extend our appreciation to those members that took students from closed member colleges. In some instances, ACPET member institutions took students from more than one closure. Members who accepted displaced students as a result of an OSTAS activation are listed below:

National Conference

ACPET held its 2011 national conference at the Sofitel Hotel in Brisbane, Queensland on the 24 - 26 August 2012. The theme for the conference was ‘The future of tertiary education’.

The annual conference is a key event for private providers of education and training, as well as representatives of industry and business peak bodies and government and regulatory stakeholders (from the Commonwealth as well as states and territories). The conference provided an opportunity for all stakeholders to canvass future challenges for the private education and training sector, and to celebrate the achievements of its members.

National Conference Program

The conference offered a comprehensive program which challenged and informed the 483 attending delegates. ACPET members heard from a distinguished line-up of experts, visionaries and industry thought leaders. Participants engaged with colleagues from around the world and shared first-hand insights and ideas in roundtable discussions. The dramatic shifts taking place in the globalised international education sector were explored and the impact of government policy on member business scrutinised. New business models leading to innovation and sustainability were also featured.

The conference began on a high note with the conference opened Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland and the welcoming remarks delivered by Queensland’s Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe MP, Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining.

Delegates were provided with a clear view of the path towards national skills reform by both Skills Queensland’s CEO Rod Camm. Leading economists Michael Pascoe and Tim Harcourt provided delegates with expert analysis of Australia’s two-speed economy, and ASQA interim Chief Commissioner Chris Robinson provided a snapshot of the new regulatory framework for VET providers.

In addition there was a were 12 concurrent conference sessions across the two days, focusing on international education, social inclusion, new business opportunities, industry needs and teaching and learning. Delegates considered the need to ensure that the workforce of the future is equipped with the necessary ‘green skills’ to manage dwindling global resources, and also canvassed the possibilities offered by an increasingly connected world through the rollout of the National Broadband Network, and the confluence of vocational education and training and higher education within the tertiary sector.

Many delegates also took the opportunity to hear from ACPET’s in-house experts on international education, improved member services, benchmarking tools and sustainability as a new business opportunity.

Mr Ron Bruder, founder of the Education for Employment Foundation (EFE), and one of TIME Magazine’s 100 most influential people in the world in 2011, delivered the keynote presentation to on day 1 of the conference. Mr Ron Bruder, urged delegates to use education and training to combat high youth unemployment and marginalisation that are root causes of terrorism and social unrest in the developing world. As the world commemorated the 10th anniversary of 9/11, EFE is being hailed as a positive example of how private industry and education and training providers can change the world for the better.
Other Services

ACPET’s Higher Education Benchmarking System

ACPET’s Higher Education Benchmarking Tool was initially developed in 2010 to support higher education members benchmark and improve their corporate and academic governance. The need for this service was identified by the then higher education agency, the Australian Universities Quality Agency, which found a general need for improvement in the governance of many private higher education providers.

In this current climate, at a time of significant market and regulatory change ACPET’s Higher Education Committee decided it was timely to continue promoting a culture of quality among our higher education members by undertaking a review of the ACPET Higher Education Benchmarking System. This review, undertaken by Professor Hilary Winchester, is being done to ensure that the benchmarking system remains a vital mechanism for members to drive self improvement in the delivery of quality education.

The report of the review is expected in September with changes to then be made to the tool.

VET Business Benchmarking Tool

Following the success of ACPET’s Higher Education Benchmarking Service, and at the request of ACPET’s VET Committee, in 2012 ACPET launched a VET Business Benchmarking too. The tool includes a range of financial and business performance metrics allowing ACPET members to benchmark their business against like competitors without compromising the confidentiality of individual members’ operations and data or commercial sensitivities.

As providers gear-up to compete and succeed in a more contestable VET system (through skills reform changes and the National Workforce Development Fund), understanding and improving RTO business performance will be a necessity for successful providers.

Consultant & Advisor Register

ACPET has established and oversees a register of businesses, consultants and advisors who provide specialist services to tertiary education providers. The aim of the Consultant & Advisor Register is to build on the successful past practice of having identified professionals in various areas of expertise, offering their services to the private education and training sector. In addition, the operation of the Consultant & Advisor Register now incorporates the capacity to monitor and assess the performance levels of those listed and provide information to maintain satisfactory standards and professional development.

At the end of June 2012 the Consultant & Advisor register was under review to determine how its operations could be improved for both ACPET members and the listed consultants.

Member Benefits Scheme

ACPET maintains a member benefits scheme offering discounted products and services for members.

The scheme covers:

- Communications (mobile phones, internet, and fixed line phones)
- Computers
- Copying and printing
- Grants and tenders information
- Insurance
- Office supplies
- Qantas Club membership
- Student employment placement
- Student recruitment
- Superannuation
- Virtual classroom

At the end of June 2012, ACPET was exploring options for a member loyalty card which would provide additional discounted offers to members as part of their ACPET membership.

Student Appeals Service

Following the changes to the role of the Commonwealth Ombudsman to manage appeals and complaints by international students, ACPET’s role in managing student appeals was under review in 2011-12. During the period 15 domestic students lodged an application seeking assistance from ACPET, of which only two lodgements were eligible for assistance which was provided.
Advocacy and Support for Members

ACPET advocates and provides specific support for members delivering higher education, international education and vocational education and training. In undertaking this work, ACPET staff are supported and provided with guidance and oversight by the Board’s sub-committees for higher education, international education and VET. Details on committee membership are at page 28.

Higher Education

ACPET seeks to play an increasingly significant role to ensure that the expertise and experience of our members are recognised by government and other stakeholders. ACPET also looks to create opportunities and services for our higher education members.

Advocacy

Over the previous 12 months ACPET’s national Chair, Martin Cass and Chief Executive Officer, Claire Field met at various times with Senator Chris Evans, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Science and Research; Senator Brett Mason, Senator for Queensland and Opposition Spokesperson for Higher Education, and Senator Lee Rhiannon, Senator for New South Wales and Greens spokesperson for Education on matters of higher education policy. ACPET interacted regularly with the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) including meeting with TEQSA’s Chief Commissioner, Dr Carol Nicoll and Commissioner Michael Beaton Wells on multiple occasions. ACPET also provided numerous submissions and attended consultation sessions with TEQSA and the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education. ACPET’s CEO now attends regular CEOs briefings with the TEQSA Commissioners ensuring ACPET members are kept updated on TEQSA issues and decisions and can shape TEQSA’s regulatory responses and approach.

ACPET commissioned research by The Allen Consulting Group on income-contingent loan schemes in higher education, to support its advocacy for fee-deregulation and the extension of Commonwealth-Supported Places to the private higher education and improve the equity of the current loan administration arrangements.

Claire Field was invited by the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) to address a forum on the topic of ‘Innovation in higher education’ in March 2012. The speech highlighted how the current dual funding model and other discrepancies based largely on ownership and history limits the capacity of the sector to innovate and to respond to the emerging needs of the economy. The speech outlined ACPET’s policy position of the need for a shift away from the traditional emphasis of policy dictating what, where and how education should take place. The speech also outlined that the most dynamic part of the higher education sector is the private sector, which has grown, thrived and contributed to our economic productivity largely independent of taxpayer assistance.

Raising Productivity, Increasing Prosperity – The Challenge for Higher Education

ACPET continues to promote the vital role played by the private higher education sector in providing business with the required talent, knowledge and capabilities to support Australia’s future productivity and economic prosperity. As part of ACPET’s 20th Anniversary celebrations held in Sydney in February 2012, ACPET hosted a well attended and successful seminar entitled “Raising productivity, increasing prosperity – the challenge for higher education”, fostering the diversity provided by private higher education in matching the varied needs of business and individuals. The outcomes of the seminar advocated for the introduction of competition through real choice for students and business, the creation of a fair and even playing field for all providers and the recognition of the quality and performance of professional staff to enhance the quality of this sector as it continues to play an important role in the delivery of higher education throughout Australia.

The ACPET Journal for Private Higher Education

Another important initiative of ACPET’s Higher Education Committee aimed at fostering a culture of scholarship and research to support its members’ educational and teaching profile was the development of The ACPET Journal for Private Higher Education. The journal is a bi-annual peer-reviewed journal for scholarly articles on the theory and practice of higher education in the context of the private sector. It provides up-to-date perspectives of benefit to educators,
Advocacy and Support for Members

Chairs of Academic Boards of Non Self-Accrediting Higher Education Providers (NSA-HEPs)

ACPET assisted with organising the initial meeting of Chairs of Academic Boards of Non Self-Accrediting Higher Education Providers (NSA-HEPs), held in November 2011 in Sydney, and attended by approximately 35 providers. This representative group determined that a greater understanding of how each others’ Academic Board operates would be very useful. As a result, ACPET was responsible for undertaking research on the operations of Academic Boards in private higher education institutions. The survey examines the membership and functions of Academic Boards in NSA-HEPs, and their role in advising the institution’s governing body on matters pertaining to academic development and delivery. The survey identified and promoted the high academic standards and practices among NSA-HEPs and the professional expertise that often remains a hidden aspect of the private education sector.

Submissions on higher education

In 2011-12 ACPET made submissions on the following issues related to higher education:

- DIISRTE 2012 Higher Education Staff Data Collection Review - June 2012
- ACPET Submission: Consultation - ANMAC draft policy - May 2012
- ACPET Response: TEQSA 2012 Provider Information Request - May 2012
- ACPET 2012–13 Pre Budget Submission (Federal) – January 2012
- ACPET submission TEQSA schedule of proposed fees for registration and course accreditation – January 2012

International Education

Asia-Pacific International Education Forum

In late August 2011, ACPET hosted a gateway event in Darwin prior to the second Asia-Pacific International Education Forum. The gateway event and Asia-Pacific forum were attended by more than 160 delegates from 15 countries and focused on challenges – and solutions to those challenges – for private providers globally. Guest presenter Richard Woolcott AO spoke about positioning private education and training in the Asia Pacific Century. Building on the outcomes from the 2010 APIEF and the resulting Communiqué, APIEF fostered the exchange of ideas, innovative practice and the development of networks and partnerships across the Asia Pacific region. The forum provided networking opportunities to promote a regional professional community of international education practice within the Asia Pacific. Thirty four international business-to-business (B2B) matching meetings were facilitated between Australian and international delegates during APIEF with many more informal discussions occurring and networks developed.

The Knight and Baird Reviews

On 22 September 2011 the long-awaited Knight Review of Student Visas was released. This report, along with the Baird Review recommendations, provides the policy framework for Australia’s international education industry for the next several years.

The Knight Review, its implications and implementation have been a key focus of ACPET’s International Education Committee in 2011-2012. ACPET has been vigilant in ensuring that our members’ interests continue to be promoted, including lobbying for the application of the government’s competitive neutrality policy by seeking the expansion of streamlined student visa arrangements to the non-university sector and the expansion of post-study work rights to the VET sector.

ACPET has made representations to Minister Chris Bowen, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship and Senator Chris Evans, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), about the suggested criteria that government could use to determine the high quality, low risk non-university providers that could take advantage of the expedited process as agreed at COAG in April 2012. ACPET continues to lobby to ensure that this process is transparent and that the criteria are made public, and meets regularly with key government and opposition stakeholders, as well as State and Territory representatives, and other education peak bodies with respect to the implementation of the Knight Review recommendations.

The Knight Review also encouraged VET providers to focus on offshore engagement models. ACPET is working closely with Austrade and Australian Education International (AEI) to gauge regional demand so that ACPET members can focus their efforts on best return on investment with lowest risk.

A new criterion to determine student visas called Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE) was introduced in the first tranche of Knight Review changes in November 2011. As a result of receiving complaints from members, ACPET conducted an examination of the affect GTE was having on student visa refusals amongst its membership and presented more than 200 examples of questionable refusals to Minister Bowen and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship as the basis for making a case for a review of the 16 GTE considerations or factors that could encourage an international student’s visa refusal.

A number of changes to the ESOS Act as part of the Government’s second phase response to the Baird Review were enacted in March 2012. This included the introduction of the new national Tuition
Protection Service (TPS) which replaced ACPET’s overseas student tuition assurance scheme (OSTAS) from 1 July 2012. ACPET has taken a leading role in cautioning of the risks which could be associated with poor implementation of the new TPS.

Advocacy

ACPET International was represented, and presented papers and workshops, at the following conferences in 2011-2012:

3. Minister Emerson’s Mission to China – August 2011
4. ACPET’s Asia-Pacific International Education Forum and Annual Conference – Darwin and Brisbane August 2011
5. Australian International Education Conference (AIEC) – Adelaide October 2011
6. ICEF Agents’ Workshop – Berlin November 2011
7. ANZA Agents’ Workshop – Queenstown February 2012
8. Victorian Premier’s Super Mission to India – February 2012

Another key outcome of the Knight Review has been the establishment of multi-stakeholder consultative groups with, or advising to, government with ACPET staff being invited to join the high-level International Education Advisory Council, DIAC’s new Education Visa Consultative Council and the interim Tuition Protection Service Advisory Group. ACPET also gained a place at the table on state and territory bodies representing international education such as the NSW International Education and Research Taskforce and the Learning Capital Council in the ACT.

ACPET has built strong relationships with Australia’s other international education-related peak bodies that have led to presenting a more unified Australia ‘brand’ at conferences and to the sharing of critical information to strengthen our advocacy efforts. Another way in which ACPET is engaging globally and contributing to the positioning of Australia as an education and training powerhouse is through the lead role it is taking in the establishment of an Asia-Pacific regional peak body, having recently provided input and suggestions critical to ACPET’s ability to strongly represent its membership by influencing the nation’s policy and strategic directions through a range of international submissions including:

• ACPET Submission: IEAC consultation process - June 2012
• Enquiry into Migration Legislation Amendment (Student Visas) Bill 2012 - April 2012
• Review of Student Visa Assessment Level Framework – March 2012
• Australia in the Asian Century – February 2012
• Productivity Commission impacts of COAG reforms – February 2012
• Achieving equitable travel benefits for international students – February 2012
• ACPET 2012-13 Pre Budget Submission (Federal) – January 2012
• ACPET submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment – Inquiry into the ESOS Tuition Protection Service Bills – October 2011
• ACPET response to the Strategic Review of the Student Visa Program 2011 (Knight Review) – October 2011
• ACPET NSW response to inquiry into international student accommodation – October 2011

International Business Development

To meet the objectives of two specific strategies as part of ACPET’s International Engagement Strategic Plan 2011-2012 – to enhance provider capability through new products and services and to develop a new and diversified market engagement – ACPET appointed an International Business Development Manager in May 2011. This position is responsible for the development of a transnational education (TNE) strategy and for securing new opportunities, markets and sources of funding for members with numerous project proposals having been submitted at the end of the 2011-2012 financial year.

In February 2012 the Board approved a proposal to establish an offshore presence in China, one of ACPET’s key target markets. ACPET’s China representative will provide onshore support to ACPET members that are currently active or wish to become active in the China market; profile the sector in China towards the goal of official recognition of private providers by the Ministry of Education and explore further transnational education and training opportunities as per the Knight Review.

ACPET was a member of the conference organising committee for the Australia-India Skills Conference, scheduled for 7 July 2012. The conference was designed to bring senior industry and government officials from India to Australia to meet with potential partners for VET and workforce development projects in India.

ACPET’s International Education Submissions

ACPET’s International Education Committee members, and its internationally-engaged membership in general, have once again provided input and suggestions critical to ACPET’s ability to strongly represent its membership by influencing the nation’s policy and strategic directions through a range of international submissions including:

• ACPET International was represented, and presented papers and workshops, at the following conferences in 2011-2012:

     3. Minister Emerson’s Mission to China – August 2011
     4. ACPET’s Asia-Pacific International Education Forum and Annual Conference – Darwin and Brisbane August 2011
     5. Australian International Education Conference (AIEC) – Adelaide October 2011
     6. ICEF Agents’ Workshop – Berlin November 2011
     7. ANZA Agents’ Workshop – Queenstown February 2012
     8. Victorian Premier’s Super Mission to India – February 2012

Data and Research

In May-June ACPET conducted a comprehensive benchmarking study into international student satisfaction across a range of study and living factors, with data analysed from 49 colleges and approximately 12,000 international students. This study was subsidized by Australian Education International (AEI), as is the investigation of the scope of offshore training delivery by ACPET members – the ‘VET TNE’ project. Data from these studies will help ACPET and its members continuously improve their operations and inform strategic directions.

Annual Report 2012
Vocational Education and Training

The high level of activity in the VET sector has continued over 2011 and 2012, with significant ACPET involvement in a number of high-level consultations and reviews of proposed policy, legislation and regulation. ACPET has continued making great strides in lifting the profile of the private sector and strengthening its support of members’ needs as it does so. ACPET has continued to advocate for a shift away from ‘private vs. public’ arguments to a focus on quality, choice and diversity. As a result we have seen a growing recognition of the private sector and its critical contribution to skilling the nation.

ACPET has continued to make strong representation in policy development around equity issues both as they pertain to members’ interests and for the VET sector as a whole for more effectively addressing social disadvantage and unlocking the latent productivity potential of students who experience disadvantage. ACPET’s advocacy and outreach efforts, policy positions, pursuit of funding opportunities on behalf of members and Professional Development (PD) program reflect its commitment to ensuring that the private sector can build on its already considerable strengths around social inclusion, and can build the educational networks and alliances to provide students and providers with the best available resources.

ACPET has likewise continued to consult with and build its representative presence in strategic focus groups and committees and in doing so, ensuring proper representation of the private sector in policy development, qualification and resource development, professional development and other ongoing initiatives in the VET sector.

Advocacy

ACPET was heavily involved in the ministerial roundtable established by Senator Chris Evans, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Science and Research to provide input to Government as part of the VET reform agenda. The result of this roundtable saw the Prime Minister take to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) the Skills for All Australians agreement, which is the blueprint for skills reforms which will be rolled out across the States and Territories.

ACPET has had regular interactions with the new national VET regulator, the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), including membership of the peak body roundtable that advises ASQA on various provider issues. At times the relationship between ACPET and ASQA has been strained as ACPET has sought to ensure that issues members are facing are recognised by ASQA. Pleasingly, however, ACPET and ASQA have maintained an open dialogue and many of the ASQA procedures and processes that were causing angst amongst members have now been streamlined or rectified.

ACPET’s CEO joined other industry leaders and Ministers at the second SCOTSE Industry Forum prior to the meeting of the Standing Council on Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment in November 2011. ACPET also participated in a post-implementation review of VET FEE-HELP. ACPET also engages in regular dialogue with Skills Australia as a member of the peak bodies advisory group, and has a role on the National VET Data Portal Advisory Group, the My Skills Advisory Group and two related sub-committees. ACPET CEO was invited to join the Queensland Minister’s Skills and Training Taskforce to guide VET reform in Queensland in 2012. Other ACPET state level staff were engaged on key representative groups at the State level (details are included in the State reports).

ACPET and its VET Committee members met regularly with key government and opposition stakeholders, as well as State and Territory representatives, and other industry and education peak bodies with respect to VET reform and VET funding and policy matters.

Data and Research

In 2012 ACPET commenced work on a survey of private tertiary education provision, to be distributed to private providers in August 2012. The survey will enhance ACPET’s advocacy role by providing details on the size and scope of the private sector in Australia.

ACPET commenced work on a study of the cost of compliance on RTOs but was able to put that work on hold when the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education announced they intended to do the same. ACPET shifted its emphasis to supporting DIISRTE’s efforts to better understand the costs of compliance on providers. ACPET will continue to work hard in 2012-13 to see changes to reduce the compliance burden on providers.

Workforce Development

ACPET has also been cognisant and supportive of the ongoing policy shift to workforce development and placing industry skills’ needs and industry involvement at the centre of VET policy. ACPET has been involved as an auspicing body for the National Workforce Development Fund, supporting members to upskill their own workforce and in doing so, maintain industry currency and quality of provision.

ACPET has continued making great strides in lifting the profile of the private sector and strengthening its support of members’ needs as it does so.

Submissions

- ACPET Submission: Consultation - ANMAC draft policy - May 2012
- Skills Australia Amendment (Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency) Bill 2012 - April 2012
- Inquiry into the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator (Charges) Bill 2012 - April 2012
- ACPET 2012–13 Pre Budget Submission (Federal) – January 2012
- ACPET submission to Smart and Skilled: making NSW number one – November 2011
- Inquiry into the National Vocational Education and Training (Commonwealth Powers) and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2011 – November 2011
- ACPET submission to the ‘Review of entitlement based funding model for the Western Australian VET system’ – September 2011
The work of the ACPET Board is supported by a number of State committees. These committees assist the Board in understanding State level issues and in providing support to state-based ACPET staff in their engagements with stakeholders in each respective jurisdiction. Details on committee membership are at page 28.

Given the diversity of the issues being tackled by ACPET and its State Committees a deliberate decision has been taken not to impose a template structure on the following State/Territory reports.

ACPET welcomes feedback from members on this approach.

ACT

Representation
During 2011-2012 ACPET represented its ACT members through various councils and forums including the Learning Capital Council, Training and Tertiary Education Forums, the e-Learning Collaborative Group, the ACT Youth Commitment Forum and the Canberra Education Export Committee. ACPET engaged with the Chief Minister on an issue affecting ACPET ACT’s domestic and international students (below), and met on several occasions with the Shadow Minister for Education and Training and with ACT Greens on various issues including ASQA and Skills Reform. The resignation of the ACPET ACT Chair and Board director in the 2011-2012 financial year lead to a rethinking of how ACPET represents its members in the ACT.

Advisory Group
The Board agreed to disband the ACT Committee and decided to establish an ACPET Advisory Group. This Advisory Group seeks to enhance ACPET’s engagement with relevant stakeholders in the ACT and will include representatives from the ACT Department of Education and Training, an Industry Skills Council, the ACT Chamber of Commerce and Industry, ACPET’s partner organisation APTS and several ACPET members.

Collaboration
As the ACT is a small jurisdiction, ACPET has agreed to enter into a cooperative agreement with its counterpart private RTO representative organisation, the Association of Providers of Training Services (APTS). Rather than compete for members and their participation at professional development and other events, ACPET and APTS have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to agree to cooperate in the ACT to strengthen their voice on behalf of their respective members in the private education and training sector and to realise efficiencies through joint activity in the following areas:

- Shared representation on ACT boards and committees
- Promotion and delivery of professional development activities
- Promotion and hosting of networking opportunities.

Ensuring a Level Playing Field
As it is nationally, ACPET’s goal in the ACT is to ensure a level playing field for the private education and training sector. There were several instances where ACPET influenced, or continue to influence, government policy to rectify anomalies in the 2011-2012 year.

Transport Concessions
The re-interpretation of public transport concession legislation led to the cancellation of concessions for all students of ‘non higher education’ providers – of ACPET members – in the ACT in July 2011. ACPET ultimately raised this issue with the Chief Minister, Katy Gallagher, (and the media) and was able to have it resolved so that members’ students, domestic and international, were once again eligible for public transport concessions in time for the first 2012 intakes.

Funding Agreement
ACPET members contributed to ACPET’s submission to the new ACT Funding Agreement. Recommendations included considerations and provisions to ensure that small RTOs are not disadvantaged with the result that the next version is fairer funding agreement.

ASQA
Since the establishment of ASQA, ACT members have noted that registration and audit fees have unduly increased. ACPET continues to advocate for a transition arrangement whereby the ACT Department of Education and Training might subsidise these fees.
A Year of Change

The 12 months in review have been a period of significant change for ACPET and for the tertiary sector in New South Wales. While the newly-elected O’Farrell Government began to shape its policy agenda, ACPET NSW welcomed a new Executive Officer, Catherine Kearney.

State Committee

The committee has considered a range of issues during the past 12 months, including responses to regulatory changes with the establishment of ASQA and TEQSA, as well submissions to government on skills reform and international education.

A key area of focus for the committee has been the lack of transport concessions for international students in both NSW and Victoria. In February and March 2012, ACPET developed and implemented a campaign to highlight this inequity which included a survey of more than 2,000 students. The survey’s results confirmed the seriousness of this issue for students and providers alike, with 89.5 per cent of respondents indicating that they would not recommend studying in NSW or Victoria due to the lack of transport concessions. ACPET’s campaign – which was ongoing in June 2012 – received strong support from other peak bodies, including the Council of International Education Providers, including VET providers. This is a significant issue for students and providers alike, with 89.5 per cent of respondents indicating that they would not recommend studying in NSW or Victoria due to the lack of transport concessions. ACPET’s campaign – which was ongoing in June 2012 – received strong support from other peak bodies, including the Council of International Students Australia, as well as from the Federal Government.

Policy Issues and Government Engagement

A number of policy developments have posed challenges for ACPET NSW members operating throughout the tertiary sector. VET skills reform also in VET Committee report For RTOs, the NSW ACPET NSW members operating throughout the tertiary sector.

In keeping with the work of the taskforce, the Deputy Premier provided input to the Visitor Economy Taskforce on strategies for increasing numbers of international students as a member of the Youth and International Education Advisory Group, as well as an ACPET submission to a Senate inquiry into international student accommodation in NSW in late 2011. Catherine continued to represent ACPET NSW as a member of the Education Chapter of the Australia-India Business Council (NSW).

A key event for ACPET NSW members with international students was the 2012 International Student Festival organised by the Department of Premier and Cabinet. ACPET was proud to host a marquee at the event, where a number of ACPET members and student volunteers gathered to celebrate the great student experience on offer in Sydney.

In another key policy area for the NSW Government, ACPET has provided considerable support and input into the work of the NSW Tertiary Pathways Committee. The committee is chaired by Parliamentary Secretary for Tertiary Education and Skills, Gabrielle Upton, and is reporting to the Minister for Education on the effectiveness of pathways within the NSW tertiary sector. NSW members provided valuable insights and data regarding pathways through an ACPET survey as well as arranging for students to share their views with Ms Upton.

Executive Officer Catherine Kearney has continued to represent NSW members’ interests on a range of state committees, including the NSW VET Consultative Committee and the NSW reference group for the National VET e-learning strategy. Catherine has also liaised regularly with the Department of Education and Communities regarding ACPET’s quality initiatives and those being implemented by the department’s purchasing arm.

Stakeholder Engagement and Events

ACPET showcased member achievements and initiatives at a number of events in 2011-12. These included National Skills Week in October 2011, which was hosted by MEGT and the stage for the launch of ACPET’s Skilled for Success and Access and Equity case studies publications.

In February 2012, Sydney was host to ACPET’s 20th anniversary celebrations, including forums on apprenticeships and international education issues, and culminating in a gala dinner and anniversary party.

ACPET has also attended a number of industry events to showcase the benefits of ACPET membership, including the Group Training Association of NSW’s forum and the 2012 conference of the Hunter Trainer and Assessor Network.

In 2011-12 ACPET has been committed to providing professional development opportunities for more members and non-members in regional NSW, and delivered workshops in Orange, Tamworth and Newcastle in addition to Sydney and Parramatta. All workshops have been offered as part of ACPET’s new national PD framework, which is upskilling the tertiary workforce to meet compliance obligations and PD needs.
Northern Territory

ACPET continued to promote and support a robust private education and training sector in the Northern Territory (NT), and to grow relationships with local constituents and stakeholders.

Northern Territory Focus Group

ACPET in the Northern Territory has been supported by an ACPET Northern Territory Focus Group which continue to provide advice and on the ground intelligence as to local priorities. While ACPET is yet to have a permanent staff member based in the Territory, with the support of the local Director and both the ACPET Queensland secretariat and more recently the office of the Deputy CEO, ACPET in the Northern Territory has had a buoyant twelve months.

The ACPET CEO has also engaged in the Territory and met with members, key government and departmental representatives to discuss matters of relevance as well as championing the positioning of local ACPET members under the broad ideals of the COAG national reforms.

ACPET Asia Pacific International Education Forum Gateway Event

Darwin was the host city for the inaugural ACPET Asia Pacific International Education Forum Gateway event. Aligned to the ACPET Asia Pacific International Education Forum held in Brisbane as a curtain-raiser to the 2011 ACPET national conference, the Darwin event provided an opportunity for Northern Territory education and training providers, local industry and international experts to meet in Darwin to discuss local priorities and international possibilities. The APIEF Darwin Gateway event showcased approaches to international engagement through training and workforce development in the Northern Territory and with our northern neighbours.

ACPET would like to formally recognise and thanks the Northern Territory government for the provision of financial support for the Gateway Showcase.

Professional Development

Over the past twelve months, Territorians have benefitted from having access to the national suite of ACPET professional development programs, in addition to professional development offerings identified locally. Over 600 local member and non-member participants benefited from these sessions.

Advocacy

ACPET continues to make representations to the Northern Territory government to realise the potential for achieving even stronger returns by harnessing the capacity of all providers to lift overall education and training provision and in supporting an increasing industry base, predicated by a burgeoning gas and resource sector. As providers in the Territory respond to a changing and at times challenging environment, ACPET continues to work with the Northern Territory government to provide a comprehensive suite of professional development activities and related business improvement opportunities.

Queensland

State Director

After 10 years of dedicated service to ACPET at a national (Chair 2009-11) and State level (Chair 2001-11) Kay Ganley handed over the baton to Jenny Field as the incoming State Director for Queensland in 2011.

During this period of time, Kay has been a great ambassador for the Australian education and training system, a strong voice to Government on the significant role that the private sector performs, and a relentless advocate for Queensland as a destination for international students to mix study with an enviable lifestyle experience.

State Committee

The state committee, comprising of 14 representatives from across the training sector, has developed a management plan for the 2012/13 period that aligns with the national Board’s strategic plan. The committee’s revised management plan has a particular focus on the uncertainty the Queensland training sector is currently facing through a range of government reform agendas and has a proactive outlook on the opportunities a demand led training system will bring.

Three key priorities areas are: raising the profile of ACPET and membership; understanding and having input into the training reform agenda; and developing stronger industry engagement practices and creating opportunities.

The committee meets every 6-8 weeks throughout the year and discusses agenda items that relate directly to member and broader sector concerns with an emphasis placed on regular communication between the state executive officer and the different state government departments on matters of a critical nature.

State Government

On the 24 March Queensland went to the polls and elected a Campbell Newman LNP government after almost 20 years of Labour governments under Peter Beattie and Anna Bligh.

The relationships that have been formulated over the years on both sides of the political debate, continues to place ACPET and
its members in a strong position to voice concerns on future state training reforms. New Queensland Executive Officer Matt Traynor, stepped ably into the role, following the promotion of former Executive Officer Michael Hall to the position of Deputy CEO.

In particular the announcement on the establishment of a skills task force in the first 100 days of government was welcomed as a strategic planning body that will guide the state training agenda and its structure for many years.

State Forum
April 26 marked the day a state forum was held at Pelican Waters on the Sunshine Coast themed ‘Navigating uncertainty – Creating opportunities’.

The forum was attended by 75 participants who were officially welcomed by the Assistant Minister for Technical and Further Education – Saxon Rice, MP for Mt Cootha. The key note speaker for the morning was entrepreneur Phillip Di Bella, Managing Director Di Bella coffee, who entertained the audience with his message on ‘thinking differently and doing things better’.

Other key highlights of the day were the messages presented by ACPET CEO Claire Field, guest speakers from industry associations identifying their workforce concerns now and into the future, a globally well renowned RTO talking about the power of brand, a panel of educational experts discussing the future in an era of reform, and a very clear message from a student who articulated the many challenges of increasing student satisfaction levels to those providers in the room.

Regional Activities
The large disbursement of population across regional Queensland centres presents many challenges in providing sufficient and ongoing member support activities. To continue the connection with regional Queensland a small group of committee members and regional members met to discuss the immediate needs and concerns in these regional centres for 2012/13 with the outcomes being discussed at the state committee planning session and adopted.

Professional Development
The revamped National Professional Development (PD) framework has had a considerable impact in South East Queensland with participation and satisfaction levels on the increase.

Funding for initiatives that value adds existing membership benefits and professional development activities continues to flow from both the Department of Education Training and Employment and Skills Queensland.

The most recent of these projects derives from the “National Partnership Agreement” on external independent validation of assessment. This project is a joint initiative between the Queensland VET Development Centre, The Department of Education Training and Employment and ACPET in Queensland.

International Delegations
Queensland continued to host international delegations from a range of countries such as Korea, Chile, United States, China, Japan and the Maldives.

Members are involved in these discussions and promote the quality framework of the Australian education and training system and the variety of flexible and innovative offerings available to international guests.

The interaction provided business development opportunities as well as the representation of ACPET as a highly credible industry association with a quality membership base demonstrating depth and breadth of training options.

South Australia
The past 12 months in South Australia have been a period of constant regulatory change and transition to the national regulators ASQA and TEQSA. This year also saw active engagement with the South Australian government in the development of the Skills for All VET reforms, representing a shift from supply to demand-driven funding, as well as the separation of the public provider TAFE SA from the funding purchaser, to form an independent statutory authority.

State Committee
The South Australian state committee focussed on responses to the State Government regarding the transition to ASQA, support for visa reforms and post study work rights for international students, and the shaping of the Skills for All reforms.

The committee decided to foster stronger relationships not only with the South Australian government through the Minister and the Treasurer, but also with Opposition spokespersons and with minor parties, especially the Greens. State Committee representatives then had several meetings, namely with the Hon Tom Kenyon, Minister for Employment, Higher Education and Skills and John Hill, and from the Opposition with David Pisoni and Martin Hamilton-Smith, and from the Greens, with Tammy Franks. The state committee met with the ACPET national Board in April
2012, when the Board was in Adelaide for a meeting, followed by a cocktail reception with members. Discussed were issues relating to the development of the Skills for All program, in particular the differential between the proposed fees paid to public and private providers, and also the high level of accreditation fees charged by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) for providers delivering the Diploma of Nursing.

Professional Development
Following consultation with members about their professional development priorities in 2011, an active program of workshops, seminars and networking events was delivered covering five themes:

- compliance
- training and assessment
- workforce planning and business development
- student support and social inclusion
- networking and partnerships

In 2012, the state-based professional development program was replaced by the national professional development framework. During the reporting year a total of 35 events were held, including networking events for higher education providers, and with four industry sectors, and also with the ACE sector.

Initiatives
The following special initiatives were undertaken in South Australia during the 2011-12 year:

VET Assessment Validation Community of Practice
The VET Assessment Validation Community of Practice was established in 2011 in South Australia with workshops conducted for practitioners grouped by industry area.

In addition to developing skills and experience in conducting assessment validation, practitioners had opportunities to form partnerships with colleagues in other RTOs for conducting future validations independently of a formal workshop setting. Validation workshops are now conducted nationally.

Higher Education Professional Conversation Series for Moderation
A series of three professional conversation and networking events were conducted for providers on the topics:

- assessment moderation
- graduate qualities and attributes
- developing an ethos of scholarship

The informal conversations, initiated by short speaker presentations, provided opportunities for practitioners to form partnerships with colleagues in other higher education institutions offering similar programs for external assessment moderation.

Sustainability Skills Communities of Practice by Industry Area
A small grant was received from the South Australian department of environment and natural resources, under the VET sector agreement between ACPET, the SA government and TAFE SA, to hold a series of seminars for establishing communities of practice for integrating sustainability skills in training in the following industry areas:

- business services
- food and hospitality
- community services and health
- building and construction

The seminars were well attended and practitioners appreciated hearing from industry about the need for sustainability skills in their workforce.

E-learning Project
A grant was received through the National VET E-learning Strategy, to conduct an e-learning action research project entitled Vstream.

The project involved five RTOs across four states trialling video streaming using mobile technologies to overcome distance, travel and time costs for e-learning and e-assessment facilitation, in preparation for the rollout of the National Broadband Network (NBN).

The project was showcased at the Skills Tasmania E-learning conference and will also be presented at the forthcoming ACPET national conference in August.

One of the key foci for ACPET was to engage with the Victorian Government’s VET reform agenda and show leadership in promoting the benefits of a client driven model to the wider community.
**Tasmania**

During 2011/12, ACPET re-established its presence in Tasmania, through a series of strategic activities. This has resulted in a pleasing increase in membership and a better understanding of ACPET’s role by Tasmanian private training providers. At present, with no ACPET staff member permanently located in Tasmania, a State Committee has not been formed but plans are underway to introduce an ACPET Tasmania Working Group following the successful Northern Territory model.

**Responding to State Government Agenda’s**

Upon announcement by the state government of its Review of the Public Training Institutes in Tasmania, ACPET coordinated a response by private providers, including organising a series of private provider consultations in Hobart and Launceston. ACPET also met with Minister McKim, Minister for Education and Skills, to share its position with him and his staff, whereby ACPET strongly advocated for a strong, sustainable and market-driven system in Tasmania, which capitalises on the strengths of both the public and private sectors.

**Professional Development Initiatives**

To support Tasmanian Registered Training Organisations (RTO) to better understand the national VET Reforms, ACPET organised and presented a workshop on the reform agenda in early 2012. Over 15 RTO staff attended, with over 90% satisfaction expressed by all attendees.

**Victoria**

**Victorian State Committee**

Reflective of strong member interest in driving ACPET forward, the Victoria State Committee grew by an impressive 5 members from 2011 to 2012. A key focus of this Committee was keeping abreast of the VET Reforms and the impact on Victorian private providers. The Committee was influential in drafting ACPET’s response to the Government’s Review of VET Fees and Funding and actively raised issues with relevant Ministers, local Members of Parliament and key stakeholders.

The Committee also considered a range of other issues, including concerns regarding the lack of equitable travel concessions for international students as well as local ASQA and TEQSA transitioning arrangements, whilst also ensuring the needs of VRQA regulated members were supported. A key Committee highlight during this period was its encouragement of a stronger relationship with career practitioners, resulting in the ACPET alliance with the Career Education Association of Victoria (CEAV).

**Responding to State Government Agendas**

One of the key foci for ACPET was to engage with the Victorian Government’s VET reform agenda and show leadership in promoting the benefits of a client driven model to the wider community. With high student employment outcomes and industry satisfaction rates evidenced by Victorian private providers (NCVER 2011), ACPET confidently advocated for this model through both its submission to the Essential Services Commission's Review of VET Fees and Funding and by hosting a private provider consultation on behalf of Victorian Government.

ACPET also presented its position to industry through an ACCI Roundtable, attended by all key industry associations in February 2012. ACPET also engaged with apprenticeship reforms, another key government agenda. Together with its members, ACPET participated in public consultations on the Building Trade Pathway changes and advocated for improvements that support a true client focused approach.

Over February and March 2012, ACPET developed and implemented a communication campaign to highlight the inequitable transport concession rights for international education students studying in Melbourne and Sydney. A student survey, completed by over 2,000 students, confirmed that this remains a real consumer issue, with 89.5% stating that they would not recommend studying in these cities to friends or family, because they could not access travel concessions in these cities. This campaign attracted strong support by peak international student associations, such as the Council of International Students Australia.
Better Connecting with Key Stakeholders – A Focus on Career Practitioners

During 2011/12, ACPET connected with the Careers Education Association of Victoria (CEAV), an association with 700 Victorian career practitioner members. ACPET proudly promoted its members at the CEAV Biannual Conference, through workshops and a Trade Stall, shared with five ACPET members. ACPET was also regularly invited to present at local career networks group meetings, attended by over 40 career practitioners. In June, ACPET organised a CBD Melbourne Walking Tour for career practitioners, to showcase the breadth and quality of ACPET members and their facilities. This activity will continue to be a key strategy to further engage and educate these important stakeholders during 2012/13. In addition, ACPET presented a webinar for career practitioners on the changes to the Victorian Training Guarantee in late June, in order to share the most current information.

International Education Engagement

The international education market continued to be of importance to members, and ACPET worked diligently to secure both on and off-shore business opportunities. Some of the highlights include ACPET’s participation in Enterprise Melbourne’s China mission in October 2011, resulting in an exclusive strategic alliance secured with the Haite Education Park, Tianjin. Currently, a trainer exchange program is being developed between the two parties, fully supported by the Australian China Business Council (Victorian Branch). As well, ACPET was invited to participate in the Premier’s Super Mission to India in February 2012, to represent Victoria’s private providers, alongside relevant Ministers, TAFE Directors and University Vice Chancellors. ACPET was also invited to be a member of the inaugural Victorian International Education Cluster (VIEC) Steering Committee. The VIEC is a state government export trade cluster initiative, with consortia projects in Indonesia and Philippines scheduled during 2012. As at end June 2012, 19 ACPET members have joined this Cluster, which is made up of 33 members across the public and private tertiary education sector.

ACPET promoted the expertise and quality of its members to a range of international guests over 2011/12. Inbound delegations included:

- Japanese and South Korean education agents and journalists
- the Indo-Australian Chamber of Commerce
- the Ministry of Finance, United Republic of Tanzania
- the Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) of Saudi Arabia, and
- the Indonesian senior ministry (as part of the VIEC).

Securing Workforce Development and Professional Development Initiatives

During 2011/12, ACPET secured a range of workforce development and professional activities for its members and the Victorian VET system. In Victoria ACPET boasts the participation of 1,139 private provider staff at these events, with a consistent 90% above satisfaction rate. The activities include:

- 43 Professional Development workshops
- 2 VET Reform Seminars, presented in conjunction with SkillsVIC and attended by over 140 participants
- structured E-Learning workshops and mentor support as part of the State Government’s 2011 and 2012 E-Learning Project Grants (with 14 member and 4 non-member Colleges registered for these annual projects)
- 3 government funded trainer fellowships, valued at $10,000 each
- 9 government funded workforce coaching and mentoring grants, valued at $10,000 each
- 8 member College’s newly appointed Team Leaders, supported through a government funded coaching project, and
- referral to other funded opportunities for trainers and other staff to upgrade their skills, such as the ISS International Fellowships, Hamer China Scholarship, CEAV study grants and the TDC Scholarships.

In addition to its institution based e-learning projects, ACPET Victoria supported the e-learning agenda through organising its Daring Adventures in E-Learning Congress, to provide private providers with exposure to the latest information technology and social networking tools, as well as proudly hosting a Moodle User Group Community of Practice.

Actively Participating in Committees

ACPET Victoria is proud to represent its members on the following key committees:

- City of Melbourne International Advisory Committee, responsible for the Student Welcome Desk
- Victoria Tertiary Admission Centre (VTAC) Committee
- Flexible Learning Steering Group
- TAFE Development Centre (TDC) Board
- the 2011 Small Training Provider of the Year Panel
- the 2011 Governor’s Export Award Panel, and
- the Victorian Student Number (VSN) Steering Committee.
Western Australia

Throughout the year, the major focus of ACPET in Western Australia has been to build profile in the sector to firmly position ACPET as the key advocacy group representing quality private providers of education and training services.

ACPET Western Australia worked particularly closely with its members throughout 2011/12 as the year developed a “patchwork” sector with some members flourishing by offering high demand skills shortage pathway qualifications, and others not directly serving the “mining boom” and associated industries, experienced a strong downturn due to the flow on effects of the economic situation in Australia.

ACPET and its members have had to focus on ensuring pro-active continuous improvement processes to ensure compliance within the changing regulatory requirements. At the same time as engaging in responsive business developmental strategies to remain competitive and ensure business growth into new markets domestically and internationally.

New premises

January 2012 saw ACPET Western Australia relocate to Highgate. ACPET recognised the growth of the education and training sector in the West and hence saw the need to expand its operations to cater more effectively for members in Western Australia.

Western Australian State Committee

The Western Australian State Committee met at regular intervals over the 2011/12 financial year with 6 meetings being held in total. The meetings were used to establish a state operational plan through which key advocacy and profiling projects were guided and undertaken. The key message driven by the state committee was to ensure that ACPET in Western Australia built serious, meaningful relationships with key stakeholders in the education and training industry such as state ministers and regulators. In addition, the push to build the profile of ACPET in the Western Australian context within the industry and potential member organisations was seen as vital to ensure the growth of quality providers applying for membership with ACPET.

Representation

Following from the state committee’s requirement for ACPET to establish relationships with key stakeholders to represent members, ACPET invested heavily in creating and nurturing connections primarily with the Minister of Training and Workforce Development and Principal Policy Advisor. ACPET met these key stakeholders on numerous occasions both at formal private meetings and additionally at the ACPET WA Christmas event where both were special guests to network with members.

ACPET also forged a strong relationship with regulatory bodies in Western Australia throughout 2011/12 with a number of meetings being held with Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) State Manager and Chief Commissioner. ACPET also strengthened relationships and worked in conjunction with the Training Accreditation Council (TAC) on a number of local regulatory issues through the year.

In addition to this work, ACPET Western Australia engaged further with sector stakeholders on a range of topics at events such as:

- Commonwealth Youth Forum
- Council for International Students of Western Australia meetings
- Australia India Business Council functions
- National agenda COAG VET reform forum
- Austrade International branding, information session
- Department of Training and Workforce Development Training Forum
- 2011 Western Australian Industry and Export Awards, where ACPET were a major sponsor of the event.

Consultations and Submissions

ACPET Western Australia hosted a member roundtable in 2011 to establish member data and opinion to formulate a formal submission to the Nous Group (consultants for the Department of Training and Workforce Development) on the topic of the Western Australian Vocational Education and Training entitlement funding model reform.

Throughout the year ACPET also took part in consultative sessions for the DEEWR skills builder scoping study and Department of Education Services review of the state governments’ international education strategy.

Partnerships

Key partnerships were aligned in 2011/12 with ACPET forming mutually beneficial arrangements with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA (CCI) to co host the 2012 ACPET and CCI Private Providers Forum and also with Student Edge as a major sponsor of the event. 2012 also saw ACPET and The Western Australian Private Education and Training Industry Association (WAPETIA) agree to work collaboratively on future projects and advocacy campaigns to deliver in a united approach to issues within the private sector.
ACPET regularly made submissions to government and produced policy position statements on a range of matters pertinent to private education and training.

In the year in review, 22 papers were delivered over a range of topics.

- DIISRTE 2012 Higher Education Staff Data Collection Review June 2012
- ACPET Submission: IEAC consultation process June 2012
- ACPET Submission: Consultation - ANMAC draft policy May 2012
- ACPET Response: TEQSA 2012 Provider Information Request May 2012
- Enquiry into Migration Legislation Amendment (Student Visas) Bill 2012 April 2012
- Skills Australia Amendment (Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency) Bill 2012 April 2012
- Inquiry into the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator (Charges) Bill 2012 April 2012
- Claire Field speech to the Committee for Economic Development of Australia March 2012
- ACPET Submission to Fair Work Australia (FWA); Review of Modern Awards - MA00075, Education Services (Post-Secondary Education) Award 2010 March 2012
- Review of Student Visa Assessment Level Framework March 2012
- Australia in the Asian Century February 2012
- Productivity Commission impacts of COAG reforms February 2012
- Achieving equitable travel benefits for international students February 2012
- ACPET 2012–13 Pre Budget Submission (Federal) January 2012
- ACPET submission TEQSA schedule of proposed fees for registration and course accreditation January 2012

2011 Submissions and Reports

- ACPET submission to Smart and Skilled: making NSW number one November 2011
- Inquiry into the Vocational Education and Training (Commonwealth Powers) and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2011 November 2011
- ACPET submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment – Inquiry into the ESOS Tuition Protection Service Bills October 2011
- ACPET response to the Strategic Review of the Student Visa Program 2011 (Knight Review) October 2011
- ACPET NSW response to inquiry into international student accommodation October 2011
- ACPET submission to the ‘Review of entitlement based funding model for the Western Australian VET system’ September 2011

Ultimately we are looking to ensure the Chinese government has confidence in ACPET members, allowing more students the option of studying at an ACPET member institution in either Australia or China.
ACPET's Corporate Governance is overseen by the Board's Governance, Audit and Risk Committee, which in turn is assisted by three working groups - covering Finance, Tuition Assurance, and Governance. Details on committee membership are at page 28.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting was held in conjunction with the National Conference on 26 August 2011. The meeting was not quorate and was adjourned until 5 September 2011. The reconvened meeting accepted the resignation of Truman & Co as the Company’s financial auditors and appointed MDHC Audit Assurance Pty Ltd as the company’s new auditors (subject to ASIC approval). Members also agreed to amend the Constitution to better manage the risk to ACPET’s Tuition Assurance Scheme caused by non-financial members, to reduce the time between payment being overdue and termination of a non-financial member.

Governance, Audit and Risk Committee

The Governance, Audit and Risk Committee provided leadership and advice to the Board on the following matters which were subsequently progressed by the Board:

Greater transparency in Board sub-committee and working group selection and increased involvement by members

The Board acted on recommendations from the Committee to improve the transparency of selection to the Board’s sub-committees and working groups. Changes were introduced to introduce a transparent process for members to nominate to join ACPET’s committees and working groups. A one-year term was also introduced to allow the Board to refresh membership on committees and working groups as required, although existing committee members were invited to reapply. Changes were agreed by the Board at its September meeting and decisions taken on new committee and working group membership in November 2011, with the new committee members taking their places from January 2012.

Lifting the Quality Bar

As part of the Board’s commitment to lifting the quality bar within the ACPET membership, the Board made changes to strengthen ACPET’s Code of Ethics in February 2011. Further changes, to comprehensively risk assess members seeking Tuition Assurance cover were introduced from 1 July 2011, and a membership renewal review was introduced to coincide with renewals for the 2011-12 financial year. Changes to allow members greater input into decision making about new members were also introduced in 2011.

In taking its decision to raise the bar on the quality of the ACPET membership, the Board was conscious that ACPET staff and members needed greater guidance in managing potential complaints that could arise from greater scrutiny of the membership. A new Complaints and Dispute Resolution Framework was agreed and introduced in September 2011.

ACPET received 49 complaints about ACPET members or providers applying for ACPET membership in the period under review. More than half of these related to Victorian providers. The Governance, Audit and Risk Committee oversaw the handling of these complaints and had face-to-face meetings with members from around the country.

The membership of 29 ACPET members was terminated between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012. On 30 June 2012 13 complaints were under review and 36 had been closed.

Trust Account for Tuition Protection Service purposes

At the request of members and the Board, the Governance, Audit and Risk Committee oversaw the development of a Designated Trust account to be independently managed by ACPET and reduce the risk members pose to the new Overseas Students Tuition Fund (a key component of the TPS). The Trust Account was modelled on the successful trust accounts introduced in New Zealand some years ago to manage the risk of provider closure on student fees paid in advance. ACPET (and many of its members) consider the New Zealand arrangements to be a simpler means of protecting student fees and the reputation of high quality providers, as opposed to annual risk assessments and risk based fees as part of the TPS arrangements for private providers.

The Trust Account proposal was presented to the Senator Evans, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Science and Research, on 16 April 2012 with a request that providers who used the Trust be exempt from the risk based component of the TPS. On 28 June 2012 the Minister issued a determination (details) which provides exemptions from the risk based requirements of the TPS only to publicly owned universities, TAFE institutes and public schools.

At the end of the year in review ACPET was preparing to lodge a complaint to the Productivity Commission arguing a breach of competitive neutrality by the Commonwealth in the TPS arrangements.
Risk Assessment of ACPET Members for TAS Coverage

The Committee provided active oversight of ACPET’s new arrangements to risk assess all members seeking TAS coverage. The Board agreed to separate TAS renewal from membership renewal at their April 2011 meeting, and as a result TAS renewals were conducted on the anniversary of the member joining ACPET.

ACPET staff managed the new renewal process well and complaints from members were very few, with a comprehensive communications campaign introduced to support the changes and strong support to members by email and phone from the ACPET membership team.

Three quarters of ACPET’s members with TAS coverage were risk assessed as low-risk with the remaining members identified as medium or high risk. (See Graph below) ACPET worked closely with those identified as high risk to ensure they did not enter provider default and trigger a call on one of the TAS schemes.

Warnings to Members

Following the Board’s dealings with some education services providers, the Governance, Audit and Risk Committee sought legal advice to allow the Board to issue notices to members where the Board had unanswered questions about a provider, based on their dealings with them. The Board agreed to issue two notices in the period under review.

Changes to the ACPET Constitution

In 2011 the Board identified aspects of the Constitution, particularly in relation to the election of Directors, which required refinement. To ensure any changes proposed at the 2012 AGM, the Committee appointed the Chair of the Governance, Audit and Risk Committee, Larry Davies and Company Secretary, Michael Hall to consult with members on the changes.

Working Groups

The Committee also had oversight of all TAS placements through its TAS Working Group. Details on TAS activity are detailed on page 11. The Governance Working Group provided advice to the Committee on changes to the Constitution and the management of complaints about ACPET members. The Finance Working Group oversaw ACPET’s financial management as it introduced a new fee structure for the 2011-12 year for both membership and TAS fees. The Finance Working Group was also heavily involved in the preparation of ACPET’s three year budget strategy for the period 2012-13 to 2014-15 - which underpins the organisation’s strategic changes as a result of the wind-up of its OSTAS scheme, following the introduction of the new TPS by the Commonwealth on 1 July 2012.

MEMBERSHIP RISK PROFILE

- High Risk: 5%
- Medium Risk: 22%
- Low Risk: 73%

Corporate Governance

ACPET Board Sub-committees and Working Groups

Governance Audit and Risk Committee
Larry Davies (Chair), Windmill Tilter Consulting Services
George Brown (Chair), Think Education Group
James Ryan, Empyrean Group (resigned)
Martin Cass (ex-officio), JMC Academy Finance Working Group

Finance Working Group
Larry Davies (Chair), Windmill Tilter Consulting Services
Mel Koumides (Chair), Academia International
George Markakis, JMC Academy
Peter Ryan, Consult Ed
Martin Cass (ex-officio), JMC Academy

Governance Working Group
Larry Davies (Chair), Windmill Tilter Consulting Services
Gurdeep Dhillon (CEO), Australian Institute of Technical Training
Selina Hooper, Kenvale College
Phillipa Blakey, Think Education Group
Martin Cass (ex-officio), JMC Academy

TAS Working Group
David Windridge (Chair), MEGT (Australia) Ltd
Mark Lucas, IAE Global (Sydney Office)
Warren Walmsley, THINK Education Group
Russell Welch, John Paul International College
Martin Cass (ex-officio), JMC Academy

Higher Education Committee
George Brown (Chair), Think Education Group
Ian Tudor, Whitehouse Institute of Design
Andrew Dawkins, Navitas University Programs
Peter Ryan, Consult Ed
Rose Vallen, Australian Institute of Management
Collin Underwood, Carnegie Mellon University
Martin Cass (ex-officio), JMC Academy
Lisa Materano, Blended learning International (resigned)
Maria Fiocco, Curtin College (retired through rotation)
Param Abraham, Gibaran Institute (retired through rotation)
Robyn Tudor, University of NSW (retired through rotation)
Donna McDonald, Griffith University (adviser on social inclusion)
International Education Committee

Russell Welch (Chair), John Paul International College
Mel Kouniides, Academia International
Gurdeep Dhillon, Australian Institute of Technical Training
Sean Mahoney, International College of Advanced Education / Myriad Group Training
Chris Evason, International Education Services
Gerald Lipman, ICHM
Peter Gainey, The JMC Academy (VIC)
Roger Bendall
Christopher Campbell, Academies Australia Group of Colleges (retired by rotation)
Jon Skerratt, Silver Trowel Trade Training (retired by rotation)
Mark Lucas, IAE Global (Sydney Office) (retired by rotation)
Philip Charlton, Hospitality Training Association (retired by rotation)
Robert Parsonson, MEGT Institute – Sydney Campus (retired by rotation)

VET Committee

Richard Finlayson (Chair), Quality Training & Hospitality
Jenny Field, Prime Learning
Nicole Geyerwski, MEGT (Australia) Ltd
Elaine Robb, Encompass Community Services
Ron Maxwell, Western College Dubbo
Terrance Richards, Australian College of Training
Brett Schimming, Construction Skills Queensland
Kay Ganley, Charlton brown (retired through rotation)
Sue Freeman, First Impression Resources (retired through rotation)
Donna McDonald, Griffith University (retired through rotation)
Richard Teo, Seafood and Maritime Industries Training (retired through rotation)

ACT State Committee

Lisa Materano, Blended learning International (resigned)
Barrie Cole, Transport Industries Skills Centre Incorporated (retired by rotation)
Johnson Pearce, JP International College Pty Ltd (retired by rotation)
James Pryor, Unity College Australia Incorporated (retired by rotation)
Rod Hatch, Wisdom Learning Pty Ltd (retired by rotation)

NSW State Committee

Martin Cass (Chair), JMC Academy
George Brown (Chair), Think Education Group
Bruce Callaghan, B.C.A. National Training Group
Christine Russell, International Training & Career College (ITCC)
Ian Tudor, Whitehouse Institute of Design
Robert Parsonson, Redhill Education
Ron Maxwell, Western College Dubbo
Andrew Dawkins, Navitas University Programs Sydney
Bernadette Walker, International Film School (resigned)
Peter Ryan, Consult Ed (retired through rotation)
Christopher Campbell, Academies Australia Group of Colleges (retired through rotation)

Queensland State Committee

Jenny Field (Chair), Specialised Training Services
Russell Welch, John Paul International College
Chris Evason, International Education Services
Sue Freeman, First Impressions Resources
Warren Walmsley, THINK Education Group
Brett Schimming, Construction Skills Queensland
Brett Dale, MTA Institute of Technology
Jennie Wallace, Study Group Australia
Greg Quigley, Jazz Music Institute
Errol Thomas, Performance Training
Kim Edwards, Sea English Academy

South Australia State Committee

Richard Finlayson (Chair), Quality Training & Hospitality
Di Flego, Community Services Training & Development Centre
Ken Montgomery, Eynesbury Institute of Business & Technology, Navitas Limited
Katina Jones, Equals International
Chris Holmes, IBF Healthcare College
Harry Ennis, Construction Industry Training Centre Inc
Rose Vallen, AIM
Alexis Watt, Royal District Nursing Service of SA
Julie Clifford, Carrick Institute of Education
Brett Hopkins, Australian Institute of Fitness
Trisch Baff, FCTA – Building Careers
Adam Waters, SITE Academy (retired by rotation)
Alexis Watt, Royal District Nursing Service of SA (retired by rotation)
Andrew Foster-Johnson, International College of Hotel Management (retired by rotation)
Ken Montgomery, Eynesbury Institute of Business & Technology (retired by rotation)
Kaylene Kranz, SITE Academy (retired by rotation)
Param Abraham, Gibaran Graduate School of Business (retired by rotation)

Victorian State Committee

Mel Kouniides (Chair), Academia International
Gurdeep Dhillon, Australian Institute of Technical Training
Bill Hamill, Rural Industries Skills Training
Elaine Robb, Encompass Community Services Inc
Paramjit Jaswal, Imperial College of Technology & Management
Liz Hoffman, Australian College of Applied Animal Studies
Melinda Burgess, Skills Training Australia
Daryl Neilson, Employ-Ease Pty Ltd
Jo Mithen, Monash College Pty Ltd
Nic Marding, Student Training Hospitality Services
Michael Grogan, FGM Consultants Pty Ltd
Vanessa Hoppe, MEGT (Australia) Ltd
Ruth Browne, Pivot Point Academy
Fiona Fitzpatrick, Futurum Australia (retired by rotation)
Julie Moss, Photography Studies College (retired by rotation)
Vicki Tuchlan, Australian Institute of Fitness (retired by rotation)
David Windridge, MEGT (Australia) Ltd (retired by rotation)

Western Australian State Committee

Larry Davies (Chair), Windmill Tilter Consulting Services
Kashif Khan, Silver Trowel Trade Training
Susan Lawton, Kingston Training and Employment
Michael Lehman, WESTRAC Institute
Dr Eby Mathew, Kingston International College
Terrence Richards, Australian College of Training
Lina Ridley, Perth Institute of Business and Technology (PIBT)
Parampreet Singh, College of Innovation & Industry Skills
Brad Tout, Perth Campus, Youth With A Mission
Sean Tuahakaraina, WA Institute of Further Studies
James Ryan, Empyrean Hospitality & Training Academy (resigned)
Maria Ficocco, Curtin College (retired by rotation)
Andrew Crevald, Perth Institute of Business & Technology (retired by rotation)
Jeanne McOmish, ACCO – AATS (retired by rotation)
Jon Skerratt, Silver Trowel Trade Training (retired by rotation)
Alan Williams, Australian School of Tourism and Hotel Management (retired by rotation)

European State Committee

Paul Lange, Accredited On Line
Terry O’Hanlon-Rose, Australian Trade College (resigned)
Guy Lewis, TP Human Capital (resigned)
Kay Ganley, Charlton Brown (retired by rotation)
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