ACPET Commends Post-Study Support for International Higher Education Students
Urges Government to Expand Support to Vocational Students

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) today commended the Federal Government for its decision to extend post-study work arrangements to international students undertaking Bachelor or higher degree programs through non-university higher education providers.

ACPET CEO, Claire Field, said Ministers Chris Evans and Chris Bowen had done the right thing by removing the unnecessary distinction between university and non-university providers, adding that the move would enable greater student choice and support diversity in the academic programs available in Australia to prospective international students.

“The Federal Government has demonstrated today its willingness to listen to the concerns of ACPET, international students and institutions alike by removing a barrier that favoured universities over private or other non-university providers with the same accreditation,” Ms Field said.

“Non-university higher education plays an increasingly prominent role in Australia’s academic sector, delivering high quality education to students from both Australia and around the world.”

“It’s important that as student interest in non-university higher education grows, our sector is governed by policy settings that support and enable students’ right to choose the institution that’s right for them,” she said.

But Ms Field said international students in the vocational education and training (VET) sector still didn’t enjoy the same post-study work rights as higher education students, and she urged the Federal Government to “finish the job” by also offering those rights to students at the highest quality VET providers.

“Australia, just like many of our neighbouring countries or major trading partners around the world, is grappling with skills shortages across many industries, which are every bit as critical to the productivity and sustainability of our economy as are higher education qualifications,” Ms Field said.

“International education is one of our best means of targeting and addressing those skills shortages by encouraging students from around the world to gain world class skills through Australian training and to apply those skills in areas of high importance for Australian industry.”

“The Australian Government has taken a sensible and welcome step by extending post study work arrangements to all international students studying higher education courses. They should now finish the job and extend those opportunities to students at our high quality vocational education and training institutions as well,” Ms Field said.

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