ACPET: Training reforms in SA set the pace

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) welcomes the announcement of a bilateral agreement between the Commonwealth and South Australian governments that will result in positive reforms for South Australia's vocational education and training (VET) system.

ACPET CEO, Claire Field, said Senator Evans and South Australian Premier, Jay Weatherill, are to be congratulated on this momentous step forward for South Australia and its workforce.

“These innovative training reforms will provide South Australian tertiary students with genuine choice between a range of approved training providers, from traditional public institutions to quality private institutions offering alternative modes of delivery and close links with local employers.

“It is anticipated that the introduction of these reforms will provide a significant boost to available workforce skills in much the same way that has occurred in Victoria recently,” Ms Field said.

“Since contestable, demand-driven funding for vocational education and training was introduced there, the state’s training market has grown by 17%.”

Many of ACPET’s members in South Australia have made tremendous contributions to upskilling the state’s workforce by delivering high quality, flexible and innovative training that is tailored to meet the needs of students and respond to industry’s goal to increase productivity.

“These reforms will help the whole of the VET sector but they will especially help those prospective students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

“The ability to defer paying fees for a diploma or advanced diploma until after the course is completed will provide opportunities for many people who would otherwise not even consider tertiary education.

“As well as being able to access VET FEE-HELP, these new students will also be able to choose where their government-subsidised training takes place, including quality private providers offering a wide range of courses and delivery modes.”

ACPET and its members look forward to contributing to the ongoing development of the South Australian skilled workforce through the proposed skill reforms.

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