Skills for all reform progress welcomed
but equity between public and private subsidies still to be addressed

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) today congratulated the South Australian Government for taking the next step to implement the Skills for all reforms to the state’s vocational education and training (VET) sector, with the release of the subsidy framework and price list.

ACPET CEO, Claire Field, said the Skills for all reforms will create opportunities for students, education providers and employers alike, adding that the South Australian Government has shown leadership and commitment to making the state’s training sector more competitive, diverse and responsive to industry needs.

“These reforms will provide tertiary students in South Australia with genuine choice between a range of approved training providers, from traditional public institutions to high quality private institutions that offer alternative modes of delivery and close links with local employers,” Ms Field said.

“While the Skills for all subsidies seem sufficient for lower level qualifications, in many cases the subsidy provided by the state government will be insufficient to cover the full cost of delivering training at higher qualification levels.

“That creates a barrier and increases uncertainty for those students who wish to advance their career through higher level studies, particularly those prospective students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

“That will also make it difficult for high quality, small private training providers to compete with large, publicly-subsidised providers.”

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.

ACPET and its members look forward to contributing to the ongoing development of the South Australian skilled workforce through the proposed skill reforms, however are keen to see the government deliver on its promise for full contestability and equity in the training subsidies paid for training delivered at public and private tertiary institutions.

Claire Field is available for comment.

Media contact: Ben Eade 0406 641 881