MEDIA RELEASE
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New Training Measurement Tool To Help Tackle Student Dropouts

Australia’s peak private education body hopes a new industry benchmarking tool for education providers will boost quality standards in Vocational Education and Training (VET) and help to tackle low completion rates highlighted this week by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER).

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) today unveiled plans to begin offering its members – more than 1100 high quality private education providers – access to the ACPET Business Benchmarking tool in early 2012.

ACPET Business Benchmarking, developed in partnership with Deloitte, enables education providers to compare their performance with industry peers by analysing academic criteria, business integrity and responsiveness to industry needs.

ACPET CEO, Claire Field, said the new tool will help providers to identify areas of weakness and boost quality standards, but also to identify how they could better meet the needs of students, which she said is critical improving completion rates over time.

“Low completion rates in Australia’s VET sector are of serious concern to ACPET, just as they are to thousands of businesses around the country that rely on a robust, thriving training sector to prepare skilled employees.”

“We’ve been working to tackle poor completion rates and improve quality standards at the provider level for a long time through a combination of professional development programs, strengthening membership standards and providing reliable industry resources like this new benchmarking system,” Ms Field said.

“ACPET Business Benchmarking builds upon our higher education benchmarking system, which has been operating for 18 months and achieved great success in enabling private higher education providers to benchmark their performance against their peers and build cultures of best practice in the sector. This benchmarking system has been welcomed by both regulators and institutions.”

Ms Field said it’s only with reliable tools that the sector can improve its own performance.

“Until now, private institutions have had difficulty measuring their performance against peers because of the challenges of sharing commercially sensitive data. This tool overcomes that hurdle and enables reliable comparisons based on sound data.”

“I encourage ACPET members to take up the opportunity to benchmark against others in the industry so that we may collectively strive for higher quality standards and address poor completion rates in the industry.”

Claire Field is available for comment
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