MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 25th August 2015

Quality and opportunity to dominate nation’s largest private tertiary education conference

Melbourne will play host to Australia’s largest gathering of private tertiary education and training experts this week, beginning with the Asia Pacific International Education Forum (APIEF) and the National Professional Development Day on Wednesday, (26 August) followed by the Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) National Conference (27-28 August).

The events bring together delegates from industry, academia, politics and government to highlight the latest developments, thinking, opportunities and challenges for non-government tertiary providers.

ACPET CEO, Rod Camm, said he expected three themes would dominate this year’s conference: lifting quality standards in the sector, Australia’s “once in a lifetime” education export opportunity, and the “huge shift” from increasingly mobile and savvy students who are shaping the future of education.

“In the end though it all comes down to quality,” says Mr Camm.

“Australia is perfectly positioned to be a global education powerhouse, where both domestic and international students and their future employers will benefit. Our proximity to an expanding Asian middle class, our great institutions and people, and our willingness to embrace technology are our advantages.”

“But to realise that goal, we must also lift standards and remove poor providers once and for all. Recent scandals and poor quality outcomes have damaged confidence in the Australian education and training sector. It is the job of industry, regulators and policymakers alike to rebuild that confidence.”

“It is clear that we can’t rely on the application of current standards and expect students – who exercise more choice in every aspect of their lives than any previous generation – will stand for it.”

“Quality, innovation, choice and diversity in our education and training sector must go hand in hand, and they will be on display at this year’s ACPET National conference.”

ACPET’s national conference attracts delegates from around Australia and the world.

Highlights of the ACPET National Conference 2015 program include:

- A panel debate about whether competition has ruined the training industry:
  - Tim Dodd, Education Editor, The Financial Review
  - Stewart Cummins, CEO, Vocation;
  - John Hart, CEO, Restaurant and Catering Australia;
  - Warren Jacobson, CEO, Study Group; and,
  - Kathleen Newcombe, CEO, Sarina Russo Institute.
• Address from **Hon Christopher Pyne MP**, Minister for Education and Training.

• A keynote presentation on the future of education and training in a collaborative economy, from **international thought leader, Rachel Botsman**.

• A look at some of the key lessons for the sector, and providers, from **Hon John Dawkins AO**, Former Education Minister and former Chair of Vocational Education.

• A panel debate on whether quality and outcomes are actually improving.


**What:** ACPET’S Asia Pacific International Education Forum (APIEF) and National Conference  
**When:** Wednesday 26 August (APIEF); Thursday 27 August to Friday 28 August (ACPET National Conference)  
**Where:** Pullman, Albert Park, Melbourne

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**Contact:**

To arrange interviews or media access call Corrine Nolte or Sarah Park on 03 9023 9110 or Bess Brennan on 0481 358 471.