MEDIA RELEASE

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Childcare training overhaul welcomed by peak body

Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) CEO Rod Camm has welcomed the announcement of tougher regulations for child care training providers, saying the providers, regulators and government have a shared responsibility to “lift the quality bar” and boost community confidence in the training sector.

ACPET has thrown its support behind Assistant Minister for Education and Training, Senator Simon Birmingham, who this morning announced the Australian Government would increase audits on child care training providers, consider more on the job training, enforce the use of penalties and establish a “preferred provider scheme”.

“These measures are exactly what the child care training sector needs, and what ACPET has been seeking for some time. ACPET is eager to work with Senator Birmingham and the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) to ensure they are implemented quickly and in close consultation with industry to ensure they are effective,” Mr Camm said.

“What is becoming very clear is that we can not just rely on the application of the current standards. We must implement measures that separate quality providers from the ones causing damage to our industry. While we as an industry have implemented our own code of conduct and code of practice, it is time to introduce measures that assure the implementation of an ethical approach as a precursor to being considered on any industry preferred supplier list.”

Mr Camm said ACPET was committed to helping in the creation of a preferred supplier list, and could play a role with Government, the Industry and ASQA, by working with its membership to identify those suitable for consideration of industry endorsement. Raising our own quality bar is our responsibility.

“If we are going to rebuild community and employer confidence in parts of the training sector that have been dogged by poor conduct or quality problems, then everyone must play their part: the providers, the regulatory bodies and the policy-makers.”

“Today’s announcement is a welcome step to strengthen the integrity of the child care training sector, and ACPET looks forward to working with the Government to implement the reforms.”

Contact:
Rod Camm, CEO ACPET, 0409 484 051
Bess Brennan, Marketing Communications, 0481 358 471