MEDIA RELEASE
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Delays in issuing training subsidies disadvantages students and jobseekers

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) CEO Rod Camm has called for the South Australian Government to fast track applications for training funds under the Jobs-First stream of the WorkReady program, currently delayed by 6 months since its launch on April 1, 2015.

The WorkReady program has already halved the funded training places available compared to last year. It has also excluded industry from skills development and removed student choice of training provider for 90% of funded places.

The Jobs-First stream of WorkReady, which was the only hope left for students and industry, will not open for applications until mid-September. This means that students will be locked out of the funded places until possibly November.

This is a huge delay, not only for students who had planned to commence study in July and are now having to wait unnecessarily to enrol, but also for retail and hospitality employers who began recruiting for the busy summer season in September.

“I don’t understand what is happening in South Australia. First was the misleading of the industry in the consultation process in addition to the unprecedented breach of the National Partnership Agreement, and now youth miss out again because of this unnecessary bureaucratic delay,” CEO Rod Camm said.

“Our only focus must be on providing job ready skills for both students and industry. It should not be this hard,” he said.

The South Australian Government has already put at risk $65 million in funding from the Commonwealth under the National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform for not meeting the student choice requirements. The Government is risking further increases to the state’s 15 year high unemployment rate by delaying access to much needed funded training for the most disadvantaged youth, who are already experiencing high unemployment upwards of 16%.

While the government is willing to invest $7.5 million to boost international student numbers, it has failed local jobless youth.

“If the SA government were serious about tackling its unacceptably high unemployment rate, it would prioritise employment under its ‘Jobs-First’ training program.”

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