MEDIA STATEMENT

30th August 2012

ACPET awards recognise Australia’s best in private tertiary education

Australia’s best private tertiary education providers were honoured in Sydney on Friday at the inaugural Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) Awards for Excellence, a highlight of this year’s ACPET National Conference.

Marking the first occasion that the private tertiary sector has held its own awards ACPET CEO, Claire Field, said the sector’s “night of nights” was a watershed moment and a welcome opportunity to reflect on the success of private providers in delivering high quality, diverse and innovative education.

“Many ACPET members regularly enter and enjoy success in state-based and national training, export and related awards run by governments,” Ms Field said.

“But this year we felt the time was right for the sector to celebrate its own achievements through a dedicated awards program.”

“The entrants, finalists and winners in the ACPET Awards for Excellence demonstrate the private tertiary sector’s great success in Australia, spurred on by ambitious and forward-thinking organisations, increased focus on quality and rigour within our institutions and of course growing demand from students looking for alternatives to public training providers,” Ms Field said.

“I congratulate all the winners and finalists of the awards, and I hope their success encourages us all to continually set the bar higher and higher in future years.”

“I also wish to congratulate Australian Institute of Professional Education and Carrick Institute of Education for their entries in the ELICOS category, and the College of Innovation and Industry Skills and XLT Institute of Welding for their entries in the International Initiative category. While these categories did not proceed because of insufficient entries, I commend them for their entries and wish them success in future years.”

**ACPET Awards for Excellence 2012 Winners:**

**Teacher of the Year**
Nicole Gibson
Marjorie Milner College

**Student of the Year**
Ramanbir Kaur
Melbourne Institute of Technology

**Social Inclusion Initiative**
MEGT Institute

**International Provider of the Year**
Academia international

**Industry Initiative**
First Impressions Resources

**Higher Education provider of the Year**
Think Education Group Pty Ltd
VET Provider of the Year
BCA National Training Group Pty Ltd

Special Commendation - VET in school
Whitehouse Institute of Design