Media Release

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ACPET welcomes ongoing investment in skills

The Australian Council for Private Training and Education (ACPET) has commended the Federal government for continuing its level of investment in skills in this year’s Budget.

While ACPET is disappointed that the Budget has failed to deliver a boost in funding for the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), ACPET CEO, Claire Field commended the government on continuing to invest in skills during this difficult period of transition for the economy.

“ASQA plays a critical role in helping maintain Australia’s world class training system. The government’s skills reform agenda is encouraging more people to undertake training than ever before, and we welcome this focus. However as a result of this increase in people in training, there is an increased workload for ASQA. It is critical that the regulator it is adequately funded to fulfil its important role.”

“ACPET commends the government on its decision to streamline a range of government skills and training programs. Reducing red tape for employers will make it easier for them to access the training support they need to develop and expand their businesses. The announcement of a new one-stop shop, via the Skills Connect Fund, will also assist in reducing the current levels of complexity.”

In keeping with work ACPET has underway to reconceptualise models of training for employees and business, ACPET’s CEO commended the government for its commitment to a pilot of alternatives to traditional apprenticeships and traineeships, including more institution-based pathways.

“The Australian economy continues to change, with new ways of working, new technology, and new jobs now a feature of the landscape. The traditional apprenticeship model is a key feature of the vocational education system, but we do need to innovate and explore alternative pathways. This pilot is an important step forward to test new approaches to skills training which ACPET members will be pleased to participate in.”

“Finally, it is pleasing to see the Treasurer recognise that the previously announced cap on self-education expenses may have unintended consequences. The policy as originally announced acts as a major disincentive to people wanting to improve their life prospects. Further consultation with the tertiary education sector on the proposal is warmly welcomed,” said Ms Field.

Claire Field is available for comment: 0411 240 671