ACPET
Membership
A Rewarding Membership

As an ACPET member you have access to:
- a national professional development program linked to national quality standards and new business opportunities
- strong advocacy on key issues with federal and state governments, regulators and other stakeholders
- exclusively secured, national and local opportunities
- confidential benchmarking services to improve your business performance
- fee protection mechanisms (including tuition assurance and the ACPET Trust Account) to ensure the security of your students’ tuition fees paid in advance
- savings for your business with a range of preferred business partners, and
- dedicated staff with expertise across the domestic and international education and training sectors.

ACPET also produces a range of publications to keep you up-to-date including our weekly e-newsletter, National Monday Update, and the bi-annual, ACPET journal for private higher education.

The annual ACPET national conference is held in a different state each year and provides inspiring presentations, challenging discussions, networking opportunities and social events.

Professional development

Your business is built on learning so you know the value of keeping staff up-to-date and motivated. ACPET offers many learning opportunities to help you maintain and improve the quality of your business.

ACPET’s comprehensive professional development (PD) framework is nationally focussed and directly linked to national quality standards for VET, higher education and international education providers. It includes a Peer+ points system to recognise and reward those individuals who invest in their professional development, and a college points system exclusive to ACPET members to recognise and reward organisations for investing in professional development. ACPET’s PD framework also provides an annual statement of member professional development activities for audit purposes.

Four streams of professional development activities are offered:
- business development
- business management and administration
- teaching and learning, and
- student engagement and support.

Advocacy

ACPET is recognised nationally and in all states and territories as a strong voice representing the private education industry. In recent years our advocacy work has concentrated on lifting the quality bar. By demonstrating to government and stakeholders that ACPET only represents quality providers, our opinions are now regularly sought, and heeded, on a range of education issues.

ACPET’s strategic leadership influences government decision makers in many policy areas and is premised on the right of students and employers to access the quality provider of their choice.

Another sign of ACPET’s influence is our CEO and Board members being invited to be part of key decision making boards and committees including the National Centre for Vocational Education Research and the International Education Advisory Council, among many others at the national and state/territory level.

Key to strong advocacy is listening to the needs and opinions of members. ACPET regularly canvases members, both formally and informally, when developing policy positions. Your can have your say about issues by writing to us or talking to ACPET Board and committee members and staff.

ACPET’s website includes a wealth of information including submissions made on behalf of members.
Business development opportunities

Each state and territory has an executive officer and member support officer with in-depth local knowledge and connections to industry, government and other stakeholders. These connections lead to ACPET being made aware of, or offered, a range of business development opportunities for our members.

ACPET tenders for large projects as the administrative core of consortium bids from members. Large business development partnering initiatives include NBN projects and meeting the burgeoning needs of the mining and resources sector.

ACPET conferences, forums and professional development events provide networking opportunities to develop local alliances to identify and fill unmet demand.

Benchmarking

The ACPET benchmarking system is recognised by key regulatory and government stakeholders as an innovative system for advancing the quality of education. It allows ACPET members to benchmark against other members in a manner that does not compromise commercial sensitivities. All data is managed by an independent body (Deloitte) in a safe and secure manner. The online tool provides individual reports to members via email in a PDF format.

Consumer fee protection

ACPET offers members a cost-effective tuition assurance scheme (TAS) which protects their students’ pre-paid tuition fees. In fact, ACPET introduced Australia’s first international student consumer protection scheme. ACPET is now working to replace its TAS scheme for international students with an independently administered Trust Account for its members.

By being part of the ACPET TAS schemes and the Trust Account, members have a significant marketing advantage by assuring prospective students and their parents that fees paid in advance are protected. The TAS enables students who are displaced because of an ACPET member closing or discontinuing a course, to be relocated to another member with minimal disruption to their studies.

Those providers of higher and vocational education that offer their students an income contingent loan, known as FEE HELP or VET FEE HELP, can be reassured that ACPET’s schemes have been approved as complying with government requirements. ACPET also operates a TAS scheme for VET providers offering certificate level courses or diplomas which are not approved for VET FEE-HELP. ACPET anticipates that this scheme will be approved by the National Skills Standards Council when approval mechanisms are in place.

Business savings

ACPET membership gives you access to offers and discounts that help reduce your business costs. Savings are available for:

- professional development events
- stationery, copying and printing
- Qantas Club membership
- telecommunications
- IT equipment
- insurance, and
- virtual classroom access.

Networking

ACPET events offer the opportunity to get to know other members in your industry. This may help you develop collaborative ventures, seize new business opportunities or simply reconsider your own operations.

Social inclusion

ACPET and its members take the social obligations inherent in the education business seriously. The “ACPET Statement on social inclusion and diversity” outlines our approach and principles and suggests good business practices for our members. Other publications provide advice and case studies about the social equity programs and community partnerships already successfully working for our member organisations.

ACPET members also support those affected by Australia’s national disasters through the ACPET National Disaster Scholarship Scheme. The scheme provides training assistance to individuals through scholarships for specific courses donated by ACPET members.

Becoming an ACPET Member

Application forms are available from the executive officer in your state or territory. Executive officers can also provide you with more advice about ACPET and the rewards it can offer.

Membership approval is dependent on acceptance by the ACPET National Board. As part of its consultation process, ACPET seeks the views of its members to inform judgement of an applicant’s suitability – this is to ensure ACPET’s high standards for membership.

Contact ACPET Now!
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ACPET is recognised nationally and in all states and territories as a strong voice representing the private education industry.
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