MEDIA RELEASE

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Government focuses on skills and productivity

Skills Australia has brought together, for the first time, Federal and State Government Ministers, senior industry representatives, including peak industry associations, Industry Skills Councils and employers to discuss driving Australia’s productivity through better use of skills.

The forum took place as part of today’s Ministerial Council for Tertiary Education and Employment’s (MCTEE).

Minister for Skills and Jobs, Senator Chris Evans, encouraged participants to find innovative approaches to ensure improved education and employment prospects that will lead to better productivity and employment outcomes for all Australians.

“Future growth of our economy depends on the country’s ability to improve vocational education and training, developing the skills of Australian workers in partnership with businesses and industry,” Senator Evans said.

“Today’s meeting signals the beginning of a more integrated and national approach which will drive coordinated reform into the future.

“All Governments have signed on to the National Agreement on Skills and Workforce Development, affirming our commitment to streamlined and user-friendly workforce development services.

“With the Australian economy returning to full capacity over the next year, we must ensure that the right skills are available in the right place, and the available skills are effectively used.”

The forum discussed a variety of possible approaches and solutions, including better engagement of employees, which can lead to improved job satisfaction, better business results and improved retention.

“The Gillard Government is investing heavily in the skills of our current and future workforce and providing practical help to ensure Australians get the skills they need for the jobs of tomorrow,” Senator Evans said.

“At every age and at every stage in life, Australians must have access to education and training to gain the skills they need to open the doors to new opportunities.”

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