MEDIA STATEMENT
Thursday 29th August 2013

Red tape in the firing line at education and training conference

Education and training experts will today warn politicians and bureaucrats that a “gold plated” regulatory system is smothering small to medium training providers and restricting competition and innovation that is vital to a thriving education sector.

Almost 400 delegates from industry, academia, politics and government will attend the Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) national conference in Adelaide, where red tape and spiralling costs for providers will be prominent amongst the sector’s concerns.

“An efficient and dynamic education and training sector, supported by strong and consistent regulation, is vital to advancing the productivity of the Australian workforce and securing Australia’s prosperity,” said ACPET CEO, Claire Field.

“But presently, a patchwork of frequently changing and inconsistent regulatory burdens continues to restrict small to medium providers and increase barriers to choice for students and employers.”

Ms Field said the cost of regulation for medium sized education providers have skyrocketed under recent changes, pushing many high quality businesses to downsize, with some facing closure.”

“Some decision makers seem to forget that there are hundreds of high quality, long established, training providers in Australia that are also small businesses with fundamentally different business needs to large public institutions.”

“If we are to truly support student choice and maintain a diverse range of education providers, then governments need to roll back the regulatory burden and consult more closely with industry on changes impacting their operating conditions.”

“Regardless of whether tertiary education is provided by a public or private provider, regulatory costs will ultimately be borne by individuals. The more time providers spend on dealing with red tape, the less time they have to deal with their students.”

Media Invitation:
What: ACPET National Conference
When: Thursday 29th August to Friday 30th August
Where: Adelaide Convention Centre
Who: Political speakers include:
- Minister for Employment, Skills and Training Brendan O’Connor MP,
- Shadow Minister for Employment Participation, Sussan Ley MP
- Independent Senator Nick Xenophon
- South Australian Minister for Employment, Higher Education and Skills, Grace Portolesi MP
- South Australian Shadow Minister for Education, Families and Training, David Pisoni MP

Conference program: www.acpet2013.com.au
Contact: To arrange interviews or media access call Ben Eade on 0406 641 881