

ACPET YEAR IN REVIEW

2015-16

ACPET Value Statement

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) is the national peak industry association for private providers of tertiary education and training. ACPET will proudly celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2017.

ACPET represents more than 1,000 members that offer a diverse range of higher education, vocational education and training, English language and foundation studies programs across all states and territories and internationally.

Our core purpose is to enhance and promote the private tertiary education and training sector and the role of our members. ACPET works with governments and industry at the highest levels to advocate reforms that will enable a quality, vibrant and growing private tertiary education and training sector and support our members.

A strong, unified collaborative voice will impact on the policy decisions of government and industry.

Membership provides opportunities to access a growing range of services including professional development, advocacy and networking with peers. Membership of ACPET also provides the opportunity to contribute to the development of tertiary education and training in Australia. The contribution of 'on the ground' advice is invaluable to the development of policies and programs that best meet the needs of providers, their students

and industry.

At a time when so much of the tertiary education and training sector is under the spotlight it is important that the views of private providers are heard. A strong, unified collaborative voice will impact on the policy decisions of government and industry.

With the international education sector growing and a number of trade agreements expanding access, ACPET is actively seeking out opportunities for its members to grow on and off shore enrolments.

To underpin its commitment to quality tertiary education and training, members must comply with a stringent Code of Ethics, which ensures we are able to advocate for our members as the 'best of the best'.

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Report from the National Chair

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) released Total VET Activity (TVA) for 2015 late July. The report, barring some exceptions, for the first time, offers TVA inclusive of fee-for-service activity, both domestic and international. The report shows that of 4,542,600 student enrolments in 2015, 66.3% were with private providers. This compares with 57.6% in 2014. TVA student enrolments were nearly three times government-funded enrolments of 1,597,800 in 2015.

What this tells us is that we do have a robust VET system with the majority of VET delivered by VET Institutions run by committed and highly capable VET practitioners in the private sector. Students and industry are clearly signalling their confidence in, and increasingly choosing, private providers.

Although we are seeing the tail end of the VET FEE-HELP debacle that was enabled through misinformed, bad public policy and lack of governance in its implementation and operation, we are confident that the policy makers now have the insight and fortitude to right the wrongs of the past. VET FEE-HELP is a sound and student career enabling program. It deserves accountable and transparent controls to ensure its sustainability for the long term.

Our membership, through ACPET's annual survey, members contacting ACPET directly and through the recent vote of an Extraordinary General Meeting where well over 90% of members voted to terminate

an RTO's membership, has voiced its opinion loud and clear when it comes to poor quality providers.

The impact of the problems with VET FEE-HELP caused by a minority have been widespread negating growth opportunities of the majority and in some instances placing good providers at risk. As a result, and through consultations with our members across all states (with the Northern Territory yet to occur at the time of writing this report) the Board and ACPET Executive have determined to strengthen the membership requirements that better ensure new members are committed to the fundamentals of ACPET as outlined in the Code of Ethics.

The Board has determined to introduce an Associate Membership (in line with a number of other associations) for a new member to maintain for 12 months in order to demonstrate a number of quality criteria have been met before receiving full ACPET membership. The Board has also introduced a conditional membership category to allow a member who is not significantly in breach of our Constitution, By-Laws and Code of Ethics an opportunity to retain membership although with limitations until the conditions placed on them have been met. The Board has also strengthened its processes that deal with those members who have not met the standards of the Code of Ethics.

On a pleasing note, for the first time private providers of higher education have been included in the Student Experience Survey

published by the Federal Government. It showed students with private sector higher education providers have overall satisfaction levels on par with universities - and on several indicators achieved superior outcomes.

The Board is committed to highlighting to governments, industry and the broader community the significant benefits of a diverse, responsive network of private higher education and training providers. We can't let the calls to wind back 20 years of VET reform and restrict student choice to come to fruition. The role of the private sector has been fundamental to the growth of the international education sector that now contributes some \$20 billion per annum to the Australian economy. Governments need to be careful in what they wish for.

Likewise, it is important that we continue to argue for a higher education sector that doesn't discriminate against students who choose a private higher education provider to help achieve their career goals.

The Student Choice Counts campaign leading up to the recent federal election was an important element in the efforts to highlight the benefits of our sector. We will continue this strong advocacy in the coming months as future arrangements for the governance and government funding of the VET sector are considered and the federal government moves to put in place revised higher education arrangements.

The support of members received throughout the year in helping to shape and deliver on this and other priorities has been greatly appreciated. The real benefit of a representative organisation like ours is the ability to bring 'real world' and diverse perspectives on the priorities and policies to enhance higher education and training in Australia.

Increasingly, the advice and representation of ACPET and its members are being sought out by governments, industry and others keen to better understand how policies and programs will work 'on the ground'. I thank the many members who have contributed, including our state and territory and sector committees that also provide great support to the ACPET Executive and staff.

I would like to express my appreciation to my National Board colleagues for their service and support over the last 12 months and acknowledge three Directors that are stepping down this year: Nicole Gayewski, Andrew Crevald and Richard Finlayson. Their dedication, efforts and contribution are invaluable not only to ACPET but our industry more broadly.

Next year we will recognise 25 years of ACPET representing the private higher education and training sector in Australia. The Board and I look forward to building on this proud record of supporting members to deliver the very best in higher education and training.



Mel Koumides
ACPET Chair

National Board of Directors 2015-16



MEL KOUMIDES
NATIONAL CHAIR

Director representing Victoria (since 2010)
Director, Academia Australia / Academia International



NICOLE GAYEWSKI

Director representing Tasmania (since 2011)
Tasmanian State Manager, MEGT Institute



BRUCE CALLAGHAN
DEPUTY NATIONAL CHAIR

Director representing New South Wales (since 2015)
Managing Director, BCA National



SEAN MAHONEY

Director representing Northern Territory (since 2012)
Managing Director, International College of Advanced Education (ICAE)



Dr GEORGE BROWN

Board Appointed Director (since 2013 - resigned 21 October 2015)
Group Academic Director, Study Group (Australasia)



KAREN NICHOLAS

Director representing the Australian Capital Territory (since 2012)
Director, Learning Options & Skillpod



ANDREW CREVALD

Director representing Western Australia (since 2013)
College Director and Principal of Curtin College (Navitas)



WARREN WALMSLEY

Director representing Queensland (since 2015)
Director, Jazz Music Institute



RICHARD FINLAYSON

Director representing South Australia (since 2010)
Group Managing Director, Quality Training & Hospitality College

ACPET National Sub Committees

GOVERNANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE	ACPET NATIONAL QUALITY & ETHICS COMMITTEE	VET COMMITTEE	HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE	INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Bruce Callaghan (Chair), BCA National Training Group	Barry Nutter (Independent Chair)	Richard Finlayson (Chair), Quality Training & Hospitality College	Andrew Crevald (Chair) Curtin College (Navitas)	Sean Mahoney (Chair) International College of Advanced Education/ Myriad Group Training
Dr George Brown Study Group (resigned October 2015)	Bruce Callaghan BCA National Training Group	Gerard Healy Builders Academy Australia	Dr George Brown Study Group (Chair until his resignation October 2015)	Richard Brown Browns English Language School
Andrew Crevald Curtin College (Navitas)	Kathleen Newcombe Sarina Russo Institute	Simon Hitchick Open Colleges	Martin Cass JMC Academy	Gurdeep Dhillon Australian Institute of Technical Training
Sean Mahoney International College of Advanced Education/ Myriad Group Training	Alexis Watt RDNS Training and Silver Chain Training	Peter Laing Republica Education	Mike Evans Kaplan International	Peter Gainey JMC International
Mel Koumides (ex officio) Academia Australia / Academia International	Warren Walmsley (joined Committee in April 2016)	Zunaid Moosa Manager, Kirana	Gerald Lipman , International College of Hotel Management	Katina Jones Equals International
	David Windridge MEGT	Peter Roebig Construction Skills Training Centre (resigned March 2016)	Jo Mithen Monash College (resigned 11 November 2015)	John Searle Study Group Australia
		Neil Shilbury Careers Training Group (resigned March 2016)	Fiona O'Sullivan Australian College of Applied Psychology	Matt Stanton SAIBT College
		Christine Stone Master Builders Association of SA	Christine Spratt Asia Pacific International College (resigned 9 February 2016)	Mel Koumides (ex officio) Academia Australia / Academia International
		Alexis Watt RDNS Training and Silver Chain Training	Peter Ryan Consult Ed	
		Simon Wiggins Avidity Training and Development	Mel Koumides (ex officio) Academia Australia / Academia International	
		Mel Koumides (ex officio) Academia Australia / Academia International		



Chief Executive Officer Report

There is no denying that 2015/16 has been a difficult year.

In last year's report I reflected on the period of 'unparalleled' media scrutiny of the vocational education and training sector, and that the stand on quality and compliance had taken up much of my time in the early period of my role.

As indicated by the Chair in his message above, the challenges that have arisen from the small few in VET FEE-Help have continued to impact on us all.

I certainly can't say that this is the first time our sector has experienced significant challenge. One only needs to reflect on the international challenges in 2008. It is pleasing and somewhat motivating to see how well International Education is now doing. There is hope ahead.

What has this year though meant to our members?

On the bright side the evidence does show that the majority of our members have continued to offer high quality training and education to students.

With NCVER data showing that TVA enrolments were nearly three times government-funded enrolments in 2015, which were down some 10% on 2014 enrolments, the role of the private sector is and will be paramount in the future design of Tertiary Education.

However, that said there has still been much to do to manage the reputational fallout.

ACPET's drive has come from all elements of the business. Led by the Board and Governance, Audit and Risk Committee, ACPET has engaged heavily with government, regulators and industry to attempt to bring an end to what has felt like a 'death by a thousand cuts'.

This in real terms has meant all of our time has focused on this critical agenda. While appropriate the resultant impact is that we have been unable to invest sufficiently in services and reaching out to members.

For this I apologise but can assure you that 2016/17 will see a significantly enhanced focus on services, support, professional development and opportunities for members to benefit from being part of ACPET.

It is pleasing and somewhat motivating to see how well International Education is now doing. There is hope ahead.

Having stabilised our finances, we are now investing heavily in new systems that will enable members to transact and engage with ACPET more effectively. The coming year will see a major enhancement to our

customer service culture and an absolute commitment to meet your needs.

On other fronts the Federal election has come and gone without any resolution to the future of higher education funding. ACPET has made submissions to Senate enquiries, government and Ministers but the inequity of the lack of Commonwealth Supported Places and the additional 25% administration fee has not been addressed.

We will continue to fight for this much needed reform.

While a difficult year, I continue to be energised each and every time I have the opportunity to visit and meet with our high quality members and their staff. Thank you for your support and drive throughout the year.

We are not there yet, but I remain committed to helping establish the reputation of private Tertiary Education at its rightful place at the top of the quality tree.



Rod Camm
Chief Executive Officer

Corporate Governance

ACPET's corporate governance is overseen by the Board's Governance, Audit and Risk Committee, which is in turn assisted by the Finance Working Group.

2015-16 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ACPET's Annual General Meeting was held in conjunction with the National Conference in Melbourne on Thursday, 27 August 2015. The results of elections were announced and Bruce Callaghan (New South Wales), Warren Walmsley (Queensland) and Karen Nicholas (Australian Capital Territory) were the successful candidates.

The Annual Audited Accounts were presented to the AGM and were approved.

Members considered a number of amendments to the ACPET Constitution:

- 1** Amendment of the Constitution of the Company to make a change to the eligibility for appointment to the Board of Directors. (Article 11 of the Constitution)
- 2** Amendment of the Constitution of the Company to make a change to maximum term of a Board Director. (Article 14 of the Constitution)

The proposed Amendment 1 was withdrawn following discussion and not put to members present at the Annual General Meeting and Article 11 remained unchanged. Amendment 2 was supported by members and the proposed change was made to Article 14 of the Constitution.

REVIEWING BOARD PERFORMANCE

ACPET's Corporate Governance Policy requires that the Board review itself every year. Due to the unstable environment throughout 2015-16 the Board has carefully

considered a range of performance and governance issues. The Board has reviewed:

- > the skills and capabilities of Board members
- > role of Independent Directors and the capacity to add to the skills of the current Board
- > role and performance of the Board Sub-committees, and
- > ACPET's By-Laws.

The review process will now be considered by the Board to ensure ACPET has the appropriate range of skills and capabilities to navigate the current and future environment.

CHANGES TO BY-LAWS

In early 2016 the Board undertook a review of the ACPET By-Laws to ensure that they reflect the necessary changes in relation to the Australian Student Tuition Assurance Scheme and to establish new tiers of membership.

The introduction of the new tiers of membership was driven by the need to protect the ACPET brand from ongoing negative speculation and to raise stakeholder confidence in the members ACPET represents.

The new membership categories established in the By-Laws include:

- > Associate Member
- > Conditional Member
- > Endorsed Member.

Following the changes to the By-Laws, ACPET's Chair and CEO have been consulting with members on their possible

implementation. As indicated in the Chair's AGM message, at this time we will only be implementing the Associate and Conditional categories.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

As part of supporting the ACPET Code of Ethics, the ACPET National Quality & Ethics Committee (ANQEC) continues to provide advice to the National Board in discharging its responsibilities with respect to oversighting all aspects of ACPET's Quality and Ethics strategies. There has also been growing emphasis put on professional behaviour associated with ACPET Membership. ACPET Membership and support is now associated with ethical compliance, respect for education and for students. There have been very significant changes over the 12 months.

These include:

- > strategically planning the continued development of ACPET's membership as a 'Badge of Quality',
- > advising ACPET's Quality Support Team (QST) on the design and implementation of specific products and services,
- > making informed evidence based recommendations to the National Board on Quality and Ethics matters, and
- > other matters deemed appropriate in managing quality and ethics responsibilities.

The Governance, Audit & Risk Committee is responsible for providing advice to the Board on matters relating to compliance with the Code of Ethics.

2015-16 has seen a considerable attention to Ethics matters and the Show Cause process.

78 complaints have been investigated. The complaints predominantly related to three very distinct practices:

- 1** insufficient student engagement and recruitment;
- 2** monitoring partnering arrangements between members and other third party providers.
- 3** deficient engagement with students, which left them to their own devices without adequate support

The analysis undertaken by the ACPET ANQEC, identifies the general areas of the Code of Ethics that are being breached; the types of complaints by state; and more detailed descriptions of what the complaint entailed. The majority of complaints are inherent in the Quality Education and Marketing general headings of the Code. Key data include:

- > ACPET received 78 complaints against members that required some level of intervention.
- > Where the complaints were deemed to be minor and less complex in nature (49), ACPET staff managed the engagement directly with the member to a satisfactory resolution.
- > The remainder of the cases led to show cause letters being issued (29) with responses expected within 5 working days.
- > A significant majority (24) of the show cause letters were satisfactorily resolved between the member and ACPET. Some of these complaint scenarios took longer than others due to the complexity and sensitivity. The majority were satisfactorily resolved within two to three weeks.
- > 1 member did not respond to the show cause letter request and was immediately terminated on the Board's advice.

- 4 show cause meetings were conducted by the Governance Audit and Risk Committee (GARC) with 4 still ongoing.
- 2 members have been terminated in 2015 and early 2016.
- 72% of complaints related to a student enrolled in a VET FEE-HELP supported course with the majority of these relating to the Marketing category.
- As a result of the broad range of investigations or the failure to pay membership fees, 42 members had their membership terminated by the Board in 2015-16.

In relation to the one case, on 5 February 2016 the Board of ACPET determined to terminate the membership of Unique International College Pty Ltd (Unique), pursuant to clause 6.2 of ACPET's Constitution.

In accordance with clause 6.3 of the ACPET Constitution, Unique exercised its right to elect to have the question of whether or not its membership of ACPET should be terminated determined by the Council in General Meeting.

Unique was admitted to the membership of ACPET on 18 April 2007.

Over the period October–November 2015, ACPET became aware of Unique attracting adverse regulatory and media attention, including but not limited to:

- a press release issued by ASQA on 20 October 2015 confirming cancellation of Unique's registration as a provider of vocational education and training and educational services, including to overseas students; and
- a press release issued on 27 October 2015 by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission confirming that it

had commenced proceedings in the Federal Court of Australia against Unique for breaches of the Australian Consumer Law.

The proceedings in the Federal Court of Australia are ongoing. The decision by ASQA is also the subject of unresolved proceedings in the Administrative Appeal Tribunal.

By letter dated 3 December 2015, ACPET requested that Unique meet with the Governance Audit & Risk Committee (GAR Committee) to address its compliance with the ACPET Code of Ethics and quality education obligations under the ACPET Constitution as a member of ACPET.

On 11 December 2015, the Committee met with the Unique's CEO and its legal representatives. A series of issues and concerns were raised with Unique by the Committee at this meeting, and Unique representatives were given an opportunity to respond. During the meeting, the Committee invited Unique to make further written submissions on its compliance with the ACPET Code of Ethics, and in particular with respect to the provision of quality education in accordance with its quality education obligations under the ACPET Constitution as a member of ACPET.

Under cover of correspondence dated 18 December 2015, Unique provided written submissions (over which it claimed confidentiality).

In January 2016, after consideration of what had occurred at the meeting on 11 December 2015 and the contents of the written submissions provided by Unique, the GAR Committee recommended to the Board that Unique be terminated as a member of ACPET. At its meeting on 5 February 2016 the Board determined to accept the recommendation of the GAR Committee and terminate the membership of Unique pursuant to clause 6.2 of the Constitution,

effective at the expiration of 90 days after 12 February 2016, being 11 May 2016.

In making its decision to terminate Unique's ACPET membership, the Board did not rely on ACCC or ASQA allegations against Unique. Further, the Board took the view that its decision to terminate Unique's membership did not depend on the success or failure of the ACCC proceedings. The decision focused on requirement to run an organisation compliant with ACPET's Code of Ethics.

Within the requisite time, Unique wrote to ACPET exercising its right to have the issue of its termination determined by an EGM pursuant to clause 6.3 of the Constitution.

In May 2016 Unique commenced proceedings in the NSW Supreme Court against ACPET, alleging that the decision to terminate its membership was invalid on the basis that Unique had been denied procedural fairness prior to the decision being made. The Supreme Court granted Unique an interlocutory injunction, pending final hearing of the case, which (in summary) restrained ACPET from giving effect to the termination decision. The case is on-going.

The EGM was held on 22 July 2016. The EGM enabled participation across NSW, Victoria, WA and Queensland, together with the submission of proxies from members.

ACPET membership overwhelmingly decided to terminate Unique's membership.

The interlocutory injunction means that ACPET is restrained from giving effect to the decision of the EGM until after the Supreme Court proceedings.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The Governance, Audit and Risk Committee provided oversight to the consolidation of ACPET's financial performance in 2015-2016.

ACPET's audited financial statements for 2015-16 show the organisation has delivered a financial result which was ahead of expectations against budget. Key achievements for 2015-16 in comparison to 2014-15 include:

- > an increase in revenue of nearly \$2 million
- > Net Profit for 2015-16 was \$809,611, compared to a Net Profit of \$548,533 in 2014-2015
- > cash flow increased by around \$1.3 million to increase the term deposit balance to \$3.2 million, compared to \$1.9 million in the 2014-2015 financial year.

RISK ASSESSMENT OF ACPET MEMBERS FOR TUITION ASSURANCE SCHEME (TAS) COVERAGE

2015-16 has been a challenging year for ACPET's ASTAS arrangements and for members.

Tuition Assurance Schemes were put under enormous strain through the unprecedented growth in VET FEE-HELP enrolments during 2015 and 2016. Growth in enrolments was often not matched to the requirement of providers to increase their tuition assurance coverage commensurately. This resulted in some providers' revenues exceeding the levels of approved tuition assurance cover.

This was addressed in October 2015, when the Department of Education and Training linked VET FEE-HELP payments to the level of tuition assurance.

The closure of a number of providers also tested the management arrangements for Tuition Assurance activations.

A significant shortcoming in our capacity to manage the activations has been access to

reliable and relevant student details. While ACPET was able to quickly establish relationships with administrators, receivers and ASQA, it was simply not possible to access reliable student records, particularly where administrators have been unable or unwilling to share the information. It has also not been possible to access records from Government or ASQA. The growth in online learning has also added to the challenge of contacting students, as they are now spread across all States and Territories, rather than being confined to a smaller geographical area.

This shortcoming has limited ACPET's capacity to provide relevant and timely advice to students.

This is an issue for ongoing discussion with Government and regulators in 2016/17.

An independent review was commissioned by ACIL Allen Consulting to review, identify and document business processes and system enhancements to underpin both Membership and ASTAS arrangements. The outcomes of the review will see continuing process and system improvements in 2016/17.

In terms of the assessment of risk, ASTAS applications need to be supported by comprehensive business information to enable the assessment of financial and operational risk, including:

- > comprehensive financial data
- > ownership and governance structures
- > current and projected student numbers
- > details of all qualifications offered under both VET FEE-HELP and other arrangements
- > course costs, and
- > census dates.

As ACPET was required to renew its ASTAS policy arrangements in October 2015, this resulted in significant increases to the costs of assurance.

ACPET is now working on reversing this trend and is currently identifying new assurance options for 2017.

Quality and Ethics Committee

In April 2015, the ACPET National Quality and Ethics Committee was established to perform a range of important functions, in particular to provide high level advice to support the Board's decision making processes on the quality and ethical practices of the membership.

The Committee took the lead on the design of frameworks and tools that assists ACPET staff in the implementation of how: complaints and show cause matters are managed; the creation of the self-assessment declaration and peer review; six quality principles that are aspirational for the membership; and the involvement of the membership categories and their design.

The Committee was also active in:

- > considering the key findings and broader implications to the Council from complaints about Members,
- > mapping issues and complaints against the requirements of the Code of Ethics, to ensure ACPET has the tools to improve quality and ethical practices,
- > providing consideration and advice on ACPET membership requirements, including:
 - designing the membership categories
 - establishing the criteria for a

membership scorecard

- assessing ACPET's scrutiny of the membership process
- > designing a quality strategic plan for ACPET, and
- > provision of quality services to members.

To support these activities, the ACPET website was enhanced with a Quality and Ethics section outlining the functions of the ANQEC, the Committee membership, Code of Ethics and Practices and supporting documents such as the self-assessment declaration with an e-Book to assist with the implementation of peer review; quality support, quality manuals, and the complaints handling process.

International Education Committee

ACPET's current International Education Committee was established by the ACPET Board in early 2015, meeting for the first time in April of that year.

The Committee was chaired by Mel Koumides until September 2015, when he became Chair of the ACPET Board. Sean Mahoney has taken on the duties of Chair since that time.

During the year 2015-16 year the committee met five times, four by teleconference and once face to face following ACPET's APIEF event on 26 August.

A diverse range of international education issues have been considered by the committee. Significant topics of interest included -

- > the development of key national policy issues

- the Simplified Student Visa Framework (SSVF) and related visa issues
- the National Strategy for International Education 2025 and Australian International Education (AIE) 2025.

- > ACPET's own International Education Strategy 2016-18
- > Free trade agreements and their impact
- > ACPET's Asia Pacific International Education Forum (APIEF) event
- > International delegations
- > Professional development needs in the industry

ACPET's International Education Manager supports the committee. Their insights and views help inform ACPET positions.

VET Committee

The VET Committee was re-established by the ACPET Board in 2015 and met for the first time in July 2015. The VET Committee met eight times by teleconference during the year and discussed a wide range of issues affecting the VET sector including the following:

- > Contestable funding at state and national levels;
- > Developing an ACPET position on the use and publishing of Total VET Activity (TVA) data;
- > Quality standards for VET practitioners;
- > The implications for VET of the proposed Reform of the Federation;
- > VET FEE-HELP;
- > Review of Quality of Assessment; and
- > Meeting with the Commonwealth

Department to contribute to the review of information on the My Skills website and the use of TVA data.

Three of the meetings addressed VET FEE-HELP to inform ACPET responses to proposed reforms.

The recommendations from each meeting were forwarded to the ACPET Board to inform their deliberations on related matters, and to the ACPET Policy Manager to inform the content of ACPET submissions to government on these issues.

Higher Education Committee

The Higher Education Committee was re-established by the ACPET Board in 2015 and met for the first time in April 2015.

The Higher Education Committee met five times by teleconference during 2015-16 and discussed a wide range of issues affecting the Higher Education sector including the following:

- ▶ The Federal government's proposed HE reforms
- ▶ The impact and enhancement of the QILT site (Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching – www.qilt.edu.au)
- ▶ Increased advocacy on behalf of ACPET's HEP members
- ▶ Re-establishing the ACPET benchmarking service
- ▶ Consideration and submission of a response to the Higher Education Standards Panel's public consultation on transparency in higher education admissions. The input provided by the members of the HE Committee informed the ACPET submission.

- ▶ Consideration of the Department of Education and Training's *'Driving innovation, fairness and excellence in Australian education'* discussion paper. The input provided by the members of the HE Committee informed the ACPET submission.

Advocacy and Support for members

National Policy

As in the previous year, at the national level 2015-16 was dominated by concerns with the Australian Government's VET FEE-HELP (VFH) and its proposed higher education reforms.

While VFH reforms proposed by the Government in March 2015 were largely supported by ACPET and its members, a number of legislative measures introduced into the Parliament in December 2015 (without any consultation with the sector) adversely impacted a large number of ACPET members, their students and staff. ACPET expressed its concerns with measures that penalised all VFH providers for the actions of the relatively few who exploited a poorly designed program.

With a new VFH program to be developed for 2017, ACPET is strongly advocating for arrangements that are driven by student choice and quality training and outcomes. Only quality providers with a sound track record should be able to participate in VFH, which will take away many of the requirements for extra administrative controls.

The VFH concerns 'spilt over' into other VET activities with several States reviewing their program governance arrangements to strengthen provider quality and student protection. Unfortunately, there were also actions to shore up government-run providers struggling in a more open, contestable VET market. ACPET made strong representations to a number of State inquiries and reviews to articulate the positive outcomes for students, industry and governments of a sustainable network of private and public

providers that offered real choice for students and employers.

To support these efforts and counter the calls by some commentators to wind back contestability, ACIL Allen Consulting was commissioned to produce the report *Australia's Skills Reform Journey: the case for VET reform and the progress to date*.

The value and contribution of the private sector was also highlighted with the first release of *Total VET Activity* by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER). This report highlighted that private providers delivered training to more than 2.2 million students in 2014, more than half the 3.9 million total students.

Greater recognition of the role of the private sector was also evidenced with the inclusion of Higher Education Providers (HEPs) in the 2015 Student Experience Survey (SES) that is part of the Australian Government's *Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching* initiative. The SES results showed that HEP students' entire educational experience levels on-par with universities and in most focus areas achieved stronger overall results.

The long term arrangements for the funding of the higher education sector remains unresolved with the federal government's proposed higher education reforms failing to pass the Senate. This was particularly disappointing as ACPET had strongly advocated for greater HEP access to Commonwealth Supported Places and adjustments to the administration charge on FEE-HELP student loans that were included in the proposed reforms.

SUBMISSIONS AND HEARINGS

- Inquiry into Vocational Education and Training in New South Wales
- Senate Inquiry into the Higher Education Support Amendment (VET FEE-HELP Reform) Bill 2015
- Proposed public release of key financial metrics on TEQSA Registered higher education providers
- Select Committee on the Skills for All Program
- Quality of assessment in vocational education and training
- Transparency Consultations of Higher Education Admissions Processes
- Redesigning VET FEE-HELP

ACPET will continue to advocate for these reforms and it was pleasing to note the Government has identified both in its *Driving Innovation, Fairness and Excellence in Australian Higher Education* paper that will help inform revised reform proposals.

Looking ahead, the finalisation of arrangements to replace the National Partnership on Skills Reform that expires in June 2017 will be critical to providing some certainty to government funding for VET. ACPET will continue to advocate for reforms to the VET sector governance that is increasingly complex and not serving the best interests of students and industry.

ACPET looks forward to working with the new /re-elected federal government as it settles on its revised higher education reforms. Maximising student choice will be a cornerstone of these efforts.

International Engagement

During the year an increased focus on international education emerged. The continued strength of the industry and the private sector's role is evidenced by –

- International education remaining as Australia's largest services export

- The industry contributing a record amount of \$18.1bn to the economy during 2014-15
- The private sector's share of the international VET market is almost 90%.

In keeping with this renewed focus, a number of 'firsts' were experienced during the year:

- In Sept 2015, Senator Richard Colbeck became the first Australian Government Minister for International Education
- Australia's first National Strategy for International Education 2025 and market roadmap Australian International Education 2025 (AIE 2025) were launched in April 2016.
- An inaugural Council for International Education was announced in May 2016, with ACPET CEO Rod Camm confirmed as a member.

SIMPLIFIED STUDENT VISA FRAMEWORK (SSVF)

As the year's most significant policy development, the Simplified Student Visa Framework (SSVF), was implemented on 1 July 2016. ACPET supports its drive towards:

- less complexity with a reduction to only one visa class for international students

- > a new risk framework and rating system to assess if streamlined evidentiary requirements for English language and financial capacity are permitted
- > an online application process for all students
- > an opening up of eligibility for streamlined requirements to all CRICOS providers.

A student's assessment as a Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE) is still the vital determinant of whether a visa is granted, and this is subjective and not appealable. If a student is subsequently found to not be a GTE, the education provider's rating is adversely affected.

NATIONAL STRATEGIES

A ten-year strategy to guide Australia's efforts, the National Strategy for International Education was launched in April 2016. It is structured around three pillars -

- > Strengthening the fundamentals - across Australia's education systems
- > Making transformative partnerships - across the breadth of linkages between people, institutions and governments
- > Competing globally - strengthening our brand, coordination and reputation.

A complementary strategy, Australian International Education (AIE 2025) was developed by Austrade on behalf of stakeholders including ACPET. It provides a more practical roadmap, which argues a case for change driven by market growth, demand for skills, technology and our competitor countries.

ACPET was actively involved in particular in consultations relating to industry leadership, consortia and collaboration issues.

In May 2016 the Australian Government allocated \$12M over four years to implement

the national strategy. ACPET and our members look forward to being closely involved in the roll out of both strategies in the next year and beyond.

ACPET's own International Education Strategy 2016-18 was developed in consultation with members throughout the last quarter of 2015 and launched in April 2016. Three key objectives are to further develop

- > Relevance to members and stakeholders
- > Leadership and positioning of ACPET and members
- > New opportunities

OTHER POLICY AND RESEARCH

ACPET surveyed a sample of members for a research study completed by Deloitte Access Economics in December 2015, to examine the true value of international education, in more ways than just the immediate dollar value. This builds on and updates previous work ACPET had commissioned, acknowledging the value of ACPET's advocacy work.

A headline finding was that the sector's export revenue, taking into account more indirect factors, was measured at \$19.7B in 2014-15, almost \$1B more than the officially recognised total.

LEARNING

During the year, ACPET applied successfully for funds to undertake a comprehensive learning program for members to increase understanding of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) in North Asia, as well as a study into transnational education models suitable for implementation in Mexico.

The Asia Pacific International Education Forum (APIEF) event in August 2016

was hosted by ACPET as a pre-cursor to the ACPET conference in Melbourne. Delegations from India, Malaysia, New Zealand and Japan attended along with approximately 100 members and others from across Australia.

DELEGATIONS

In an unusually quiet year for overseas member delegations, visits to India, Indonesia and Mexico were delayed because of members' changing priorities or in-country events being delayed.

Throughout the year ACPET was represented overseas by:

- Gurdeep Dhillon, International Education Committee member, participated in Minister Pyne's delegation to various Indian cities in August 2015. (not at ACPET's expense)
- Larry Davies, previously General Manager, Services, ACPET attended the ICEF Berlin event in November 2015.
- Paula Johnston, International Engagement Manager, participated in Special Envoy Andrew Robb's delegation and the AIEC Skills Working Group in Delhi, India in April 2016.
- Rod Camm, ACPET CEO, at Austrade's Australia Week in China in various Chinese locations in April 2016.
- Michael Hall, Executive Officer NT, at a Group Training Northern Territory (GTNT) event in Manila, Phillipines in June 2016.

Professional Development

During 2015-16 ACPET continued to expand its Professional Development (PD) program to include a wider range of topics. Over 300 webinars and 50 national workshops in the areas of LLN and Foundation

Skills were delivered. Work also was undertaken on a new PD program to be launched in the first half of 2016-17. This program will focus on:

- Higher Education webinars
- Member sharing forums in each state and territory
- e-learning programs
- Human resource webinars
- Leadership workshops
- Student support webinars for trainers, and
- giving members access to PD resources on the website.

Revised PD Pricing Plans that are equitable to all members, regardless of size, were introduced. This allows for cost effective PD access for all staff members within an organisation compared with purchasing individual webinars for each staff member.

The latest PD calendar outlining the range of current PD events available across Australia is at www.acpet.edu.au.

ACPET Health Check Services

In 2015-16 ACPET refined its exclusive range of Health Check Services offered to members. This service ensures an independent perspective on areas of operational improvement and best quality practices. These services are cost effective, and the process is highly adaptable and responsive to the member's context.

The range of Health Check Services now includes adherence to ACPET's Code of Ethics and Broker Code of Practice, and compliance with the VET Quality Framework.

Members can access the following independent services:

- > Full Health Check against all RTO Standards 2015
- > Health Check against Standard 1
- > ACPET approved consultancy support services

A new service has been developed in 2016 in response to the high risk nature and increased activity in the third party/partnership space. The new Health Check service provides an independent review of RTO systems, partnering agreements and monitoring arrangements.

The introduction of the new Standards for RTOs 2015 saw ASQA implement the Annual Declaration of Compliance. The activity for Health Checks peaked between the months of January and March with Members using this service to validate their own findings and provide further confidence in completing the Declaration submitted to ASQA.

In addition to the Health Check Services the National Quality Advisor provides Members with compliance advice on an as needs basis. Queries have ranged from VET FEE-HELP, audit assistance, rectification assistance and general queries relative to the Standards for RTOs 2015.

ACPET also developed a Quality Manual that contains useful templates, tools and resources to assist Members meet the compliance requirements of the Standards for RTOs 2015. The document is an ongoing project that will see additional resources added as needs arise. The response to this has been positive and it is provided to Members at no charge.

National Conference 2015

The ACPET National Conference was held at the Pullman Albert Park, Melbourne on



Rod Camm addresses the Conference

27 and 28 August 2015 and was preceded once more by the Asia Pacific International Education Forum (APIEF). A Professional Development day attended by 80 practitioners was also held before the Conference

Over 430 participants attended the conference and there were over 30 exhibitors and a number of generous sponsors who supported the conference.

The theme of the conference was:

Inspiring Ideas: Building a better private education and training sector through innovation, diversity and quality.

There was a wide range of speakers both in the plenary and concurrent sessions, addressing topics from VET to Higher and International education, ESL, online learning and LLN.

Both Federal and Victorian Ministers and the federal shadow Skills Minister addressed delegates on key issues.

A highlight of the conference was the

keynote address given by Rachel Botsman on the Collaborative Economy and the risks and opportunities presented by innovative disruptors.

The conference reception and dinner were well attended and delegates enjoyed the networking and camaraderie, meeting old friends and making new ones to forge potential working partnerships in the future.



*Delegates networking at
ACPET Conference*



Minister Herbert addresses delegates

ACPET STATE & TERRITORY REPORTS

QUEENSLAND STATE COMMITTEE 2015-16

CHAIR:

WARREN WALMSLEY

Jazz Music Institute

JOANNE BROOKS

Entamio

RICHARD BROWN

Browns English School

KYLIE FAHEY

Foundation Education

PAUL KULPA

MTAQ

DARREN MACKINTOSH

*College of Australian Training
(resigned May 2016)*

KATHLEEN NEWCOMBE

Sarina Russo Institute

DIANNE PAYNE

Cairns Training Academy

GREG QUIGLEY

Jazz Music Institute

PETER ROEBIG

*Peter Roebig and Associates
(resigned July 2016)*

The State Committee has sharpened its focus on matters critical to the membership. Each State Committee member took on a role with key committees or projects including quality and ethics, building strong relationships with the Minister's office, the establishment of a Working Reference Group with DET, International education and State Forum and Workshops.

During the year the Queensland office engaged with state government agencies and key stakeholders on a range of priority higher education, training and employment issues.

It is pleasing to note that the Queensland contestable VET model has been amongst the least contentious across the country. This has been developed through open and ongoing communication and advocacy with the Minister and senior departmental officials. These efforts have been enhanced by a number of Member working groups and committees.

HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

ACPET Queensland continued to represent the membership on a variety of Government and non-Government skilling and employment initiatives across the state. The Queensland office focused on advising, supporting and promoting the skilling initiatives and priorities of the Queensland Government's Working Queensland policy framework.

The Queensland VET investment plan 2015-16 demonstrated a strong commitment towards the creation of jobs for all Queenslanders with an increase of \$139.6 million, bringing the annual budget to \$754.6 million. The reintroduction of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative, with \$60 million to assist and ensure all

learners and job seekers are well supported and can access additional support when required to enter and stay in the workforce.

During the year a Working Reference Group met to regularly discuss a range of topics including; an investment plan, Jobs Queensland functions, pre-qualified supplier criteria, youth engagement and professional standards in VET.

ACPET supported and influenced the design of the Queensland Training Ombudsman's office. ACPET signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the office to assist in researching and discussing systemic matters across the sector with the view to resolving concerns.

The office continued to support quality RTOs seeking to become prequalified suppliers with the Department of Education and Training.

The year's State Forum, themed on "Disruption" and attended by 100+ delegates from as far as North Queensland and Sydney, was a resounding success. The aim of the organising committee was to create an event that enabled members to step back from the coal face and look at current issues facing our industry and businesses, and to view disruption as an opportunity with the day finishing by seeing ourselves as potential disruptors.

ACPET Queensland's 4th edition of the Course Guide 2016-17 continued to grow in terms of members involved, professionalism and targeted distribution lists. The Course Guide targets career counsellors in high schools both public and independent, career and employment expos, job active agencies, libraries, community groups and recruitment companies.

The Queensland office was involved in a working committee to establish Education

Sunshine Coast. ACPET worked with colleagues from schools, RTOs and universities that provide education and training to individuals, communities and businesses on the Coast.

STATE-BASED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVENTS:

5 AUGUST 2015:

Gold Coast Validation Workshops

12 OCTOBER 2015:

Trade Commissioner Breakfast

3 DECEMBER 2015:

Cairns Member Forum

9 DECEMBER 2016:

Volume of Learning Summit

13 APRIL 2016:

State Forum



*Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP
Attorney-General and Minister for
Justice, Minister for Training and Skills*

*Keynote address - Queensland State
Forum 13 April 2016*

NEW SOUTH WALES STATE COMMITTEE 2015-16

CHAIR:

BRUCE CALLAGHAN
BCA National

ACT BOARD DIRECTOR:

KAREN NICHOLAS
Learning Options

GLORIA GAMBRELLIS
MEGT

JENNY HAYES

Ella Baché College

DAVID HILL

ARC Group

KEVIN KALINKO

Australian Institute of P.T.

MICHAEL LEHMAN

WesTrac
(resigned June 2016)

RON MAXWELL

VERTO

FIONA O'SULLIVAN

Australian College of Applied
Psychology

BRENDAN TORAZZI

AlertForce

2015-16 saw a changing of the guard for the NSW state committee. Under the new leadership of Bruce Callaghan, the Board appointed three first time members – David Hill, Kevin Kalinko and Brendan Torazzi – to complement long standing members in representing member interests. The Committee met six times throughout the year.

General VET and HE sector updates were standing meeting agenda items. The Smart and Skilled program specifically was frequently discussed. State Committee members were also members of ACPET's reference group to Training Services NSW, establishing a good communication flow of recommendations and outcomes.

The media's representation of the private sector and suggestions of how to adjust ACPET's membership were discussed on multiple occasions as were ways to achieve a membership of quality providers fully compliant with the Code of Ethics.

The departure of Martin Cass from the Board and NSW State Committee following the completion of his maximum eligible term brought new leadership to the state. Bruce Callaghan took the reins to steward the private provider perspective in NSW after being elected by the state's membership to the Board in 2015. Karen Nicholas was re-elected unopposed for a further term to act for members based in the ACT.

The turbulence that surrounded the implementation of Smart and Skilled as the NSW government's VET reform program settled somewhat over the year. The awarding of contracts for 2016 to providers who had previously been unsuccessful or limited to preferred regions, as well as contract increases where evidenced by worthy performance in 2015, went a long way to addressing Member concerns. The member constituted reference group to Training Services NSW is to be congratulated

for the advocacy in promoting private provider interests, and can be creditable with influencing the positive changes that have occurred.

An independent review of Smart and Skilled during the year also afforded providers the chance to express their views about the program and its procurement process.

Member interests were also represented via participation in the NSW Skills Board Provider Reference Group and StudyNSW Board.

The re-establishment of the Think Tank by TaTE offered opportunities for Members to contribute fresh perspectives added to discussions about VET in the ACT.

HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

The NSW Government's Statement of Expectations for Smart and Skilled contracted providers included the expectation that providers would "maintain active membership of a provider industry association, meeting industry accountabilities for quality and responsiveness to student needs". Strong encouragement by ACPET contributed to the clause's inclusion.

An ACPET program co-funded by StudyNSW enabling participating colleges to develop a business plan capitalising on international market opportunities was implemented

ADVOCACY, POLICY & GOVERNMENT:

As a result of its submission tendered to the Inquiry into vocational education and training in NSW, ACPET gave evidence at a Legislative Council Committee hearing in September 2015.

The Committee's report recognised ACPET's key points including an acknowledgement

The report stated "the committee believes that a contestable training market will benefit all parts of the sector over time, driving up quality and efficiency, and ultimately benefiting students, industry and the economy".

of the benefits of contestability. The report stated "the committee believes that a contestable training market will benefit all parts of the sector over time, driving up quality and efficiency, and ultimately benefiting students, industry and the economy".

STATE-BASED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVENTS:

JULY 2015: Global Skills Training Forum hosted by Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham to consider the draft National Strategy for International Education.

AUGUST 2015: Australian Automotive National Summit attended by ACPET in Canberra September-November 2015: ACPET/StudyNSW international business plan project

SEPTEMBER 2015: ACPET appeared as a witness into the NSW Legislative Council Inquiry into VET in NSW

SEPTEMBER 2015: ACT TaTE forum

NEW SOUTH WALES & ACT

SEPTEMBER 2015: ACPET management and members attended reviews of the National Partnership on Skills Reform consultation in Sydney and Canberra

SEPTEMBER 2015: Focus groups for the Smart and Skilled review

OCTOBER 2015: NSW Government Syrian Refugee Intake roundtable

OCTOBER 2015: ACT VET Think Tank

NOVEMBER 2015: ACT TaTE forum

DECEMBER 2015: Members Christmas drinks.

MARCH 2016: VET consultative forum hosted by Training Services NSW

APRIL 2016: 3rd edition of the NSW/ACT Course Guide distributed to high schools, JobActive providers and Apprenticeship Centres

APRIL 2016: discussions hosted by StudyNSW regarding public transport discounts for international students

APRIL 2016: 'Members meet the Board' event held in Sydney

JUNE 2016: ACT VET Think Tank
2016: ACPET CEO and Chairman consultations with members held in Sydney and Canberra

JUNE 2016: ACT VET Think Tank

JUNE 2016: ACPET CEO and Chairman consultations with members held in Sydney and Canberra



Bruce Callaghan addressing NSW members at the Christmas event, December 2015

VICTORIA STATE COMMITTEE 2015-16

CHAIR: MEL KOUMIDES
Academia International

MELINDA BURGESS
Skills Training Australia

GURDEEP DHILLON
*Australian Institute of
Technical Training*

ROCCO GUARNACCIA
Silk Education and Training

BILL HAMILL
*Rural Industries Skills
Training*

PAM HARGREAVES
*Pathways Independent
Schools Victoria*

LIZ HOFFMAN
*Australian College of Applied
Animal Studies*

PETER JASONIDES
*Institute of Tertiary and
Higher Education Australia*

DARYL NEILSON
Employ-Ease Pty Ltd

RUTH ROSEN
Ozford College

ANDREW SHEA
Builders Academy

In 2015, the new Victorian Minister for Training and Skills and Minister for International Education, the Hon. Steve Herbert MP was appointed.

In February 2016, Demmi Paris was appointed the new Victorian Executive Officer replacing Martin Powell.

The Victorian Government continued its review of the Victorian Training Guarantee with a key focus on increased quality, compliance and performance outcomes. The Victorian government will announce its position on VTG and its proposed workings by late 2016.

HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

2015 saw ACPET participate in the Victorian Government's independent VET Funding Review. It also saw members participating in consultations for the Review of Quality Assurance in Victoria's VET System. In 2016 ACPET Victorian members also actively participated in consultations for the Review of Quality Assurance in Victoria's VET System.

ACPET CEO Rod Camm and ACPET Chair Mel Koumides committed to a series of member roadshows in all states and territories. The ACPET Victoria member roadshows held in June 2016, provided members an opportunity to meet and engage with the CEO and Chair, discuss new membership categories proposed as well as influence the direction of membership services for ACPET.

Mel Koumides and Demmi Paris, Vic Executive Officer, attended various consultations on VET FEE-HELP.

February saw the office host a Japanese Delegation from the KADOKAWA Contents Academy Co, that was visiting Australia as part of its international opportunities in

either establishing or partnering with creative/multimedia colleges.

In May the office hosted an Indian delegation that was visiting Australia as part of its international engagement partnerships. The aim of the visit was to enhance the quality of its dual colleges courses (vocational and HE) particularly in the areas of aviation, engineering, sports management and business management

The office also met with Canadian Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Deputy Director who was visiting as part of APAIE.

Closer partnerships and engagement activities were undertaken to support International Education in Victoria with Study Melbourne and the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources. (ECODEV)

ACPET was successful in securing a record four VET Development Centre (VDC) grants for professional development activities and projects in 2015. The projects focussed on New Team Leadership Program building capability for members. As part of building closer links between ACPET Victoria and the VET Development Centre, free participant places were offered to ACPET members for VDC workshops focusing on education leadership and specialist staff for 2016.

ADVOCACY, POLICY & GOVERNMENT

- > VET Practitioners Research Network representation
- > VCAL Committee
- > Victorian State Training Awards – Judging panel
- > Senior Council of Vocational Education and Training Providers (Community Services and Health)



Delegation from the Department of Education and Training on a tour of an ACPET Victoria members led by Demmi Paris – May 2016

- > DeafConnectEd Steering Committee representation
- > Study Melbourne Student Centre Advisory Network representation
- > VTAC Committee representation - 2016

STATE-BASED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVENTS:

JULY/AUGUST 2015:
WORKSHOP - Standard 1: achieving and maintaining compliance

JULY/NOVEMBER 2015
Digital Coaching and Mentoring Program Workforce Team Leaders Program

OCTOBER 2015:
Grand Final Breakfast

AUGUST 2015:

Bruce Mackenzie Lunch

OCTOBER 2015:

Hangzhou City Delegation

MARCH 2016:

Japanese Delegation

MAY 2016:

Indian Delegation Tour

MARCH/ MAY 2016:

VET Delegation tours with Victorian Skills Commissioner & HESG, Deputy secretary

JUNE 2016:

VIC VET Forum



Hon. Sharon Bird MP (former) Shadow Minister for Vocational Education with Mel Koumides and Demmi Paris at the Victoria VET Stakeholder Forum 2016

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA STATE COMMITTEE 2015-16

CHAIR: RICHARD FINLAYSON

*Quality Training and Hospitality
College*

BRUCE CAMERON

4Life College SA

MARIE CHITTEBOROUGH

EQUALS International

LYNNE HOFFMEISTER

*Eynesbury Education Group,
Navitas SA*

RUTH JUREVICIUS

RDNS & Silver Chain Training

DAVID LEIGH-EWERS

Celtic Training

DR JOHAN ROUX

*Tabor Adelaide (replacing
former Member Dr Stephen
Spence)*

CHRISTINE STONE

*Master Builders Association
of SA*

JA TURNBULL

MEGT

KELLY BRAMHILL

*Australian Institute of
Management (resigned Dec
2015)*

HARRY ENNIS

*Construction Industry Training
Centre (resigned Nov 2015)*

The SA State Committee saw the commencement of seven new members and the sad passing of long term committee member Harry Ennis.

Five meetings were held during the 2015-16 year and, in addition to discussing VET, Higher Education and international policy and funding issues that arose, the key matter under discussion at each meeting was the implementation of SA's WorkReady and JobsFirst subsidised training program and follow up action to be taken.

Members of the State Committee met with the then federal Minister the Hon Luke Hartsuyker to brief him on the impact of WorkReady and subsequently with the Hon Minister Scott Ryan when he conducted a VET FEE-HELP consultation in Adelaide.

A group of State Committee members met with the Department of State Development to contribute to new WorkReady developments for 2017.

The State Chair and Executive Officer met with the new Minister for Higher Education and Skills the Hon Susan Close and with the Minister for Investment and Trade the Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith to facilitate the involvement of private RTOs in SA's stepped up efforts around international education.

ACPET also appeared before the Select Committee on the Review of SkillsforAll and WorkReady regarding the impact of these programs on RTOs and the VET sector in SA.

HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

The main issue addressed during the year related to the introduction of the WorkReady and JobsFirst subsidised training program, which replaced the previous Skills for All program.

WorkReady saw funding subsidies to private RTOs slashed to just 10% of available places,

in addition to TAFE SA continuing to receive 2.5 times the subsidy per place and a reduction in the number of courses funded for RTOs.

This policy effectively removed student choice of provider and impacted negatively on student career aspirations at a time of record state unemployment.

This shaped subsequent advocacy activities and media exposure throughout the year, in addition to keeping members informed of national advocacy relating to VET FEE-HELP, Higher Education reforms and the development of simplified streamlined visa processing (SSVF).

ACPET contributed actively to the consultations for developing the SA Training and Skills Commission Industry Priority Qualifications (IPQ) list, which will shape subsidy allocations in the coming year.

ADVOCACY, POLICY & GOVERNMENT

Advocacy activities in SA were determined primarily by the introduction of WorkReady

Numerous media releases were issued following the introduction of the new WorkReady arrangements and media interviews were conducted regarding the virtual abandonment of the agreed student choice principle under the National Partnership Agreement (NPA).

Meetings were held with federal Ministers Birmingham, Hartsuyker and Ryan regarding the matter, with the result that Minister Birmingham conducted two RTO Forums in Adelaide regarding the impact of WorkReady.

An RTO survey was conducted in August 2015 to ascertain the impacts of WorkReady, the results of which were

ACPET contributed actively to the consultations for developing the SA Training and Skills Commission Industry Priority Qualifications (IPQ) list, which will shape subsidy allocations in the coming year.

used in media releases and in subsequent correspondence and submissions to Government to advocate for more equitable funding arrangements and greater support for student choice.

Comprehensive initial and follow up submissions were forwarded to the Legislative Council Select Committee on the Review of SkillsforAll and WorkReady and also a submission regarding the Review of TAFESA.

The State Chair and the SA Executive Officer appeared before the Select Committee on the Review of SkillsforAll and WorkReady and gave a comprehensive briefing on the impact of these programs on the VET sector in SA.

The ACPET Executive Officer met with the SA Minister for Investment and Trade, Martin Hamilton-Smith to discuss how the private sector could be more involved with government efforts in international education and spoke at the Minister's Forum to launch new initiatives in this sector.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ACPET participated with the Department of State Development to explore ways of engaging private RTOs with India both on and off shore and to involve the VET sector in government delegations.

ACPET attended the Launch of the SA Australia-India strategy and was involved in planning for the Shandong- Adelaide Partnership anniversary celebrations.

ACPET participated in several Study Adelaide International Update events and regular DIBP information sessions regarding general visa arrangements and one explaining the Simplified Student Visa Framework (SSVF).

A national VET Quality Forum was held in Adelaide attended by members from across the country to develop an agreed approach to the emerging VET FEE-HELP concerns, followed by networking with SA members.

The SA office attended two CEDA functions during the year to hear Minister Birmingham and others speak about proposed Higher Education and VET Reforms.

In addition to contributing to the consultations for developing the SA Training and Skills Commission Industry Priority Qualifications (IPQ) list, ACPET participated in several TaSC events including the launch of the IPQ.

ACPET contributed to the Review of the Training and Development Act and participated in a number of meetings with DSD staff regarding WorkReady funding arrangements.

development activities for members.

Two member forums were held during the year; the first to direct favourable access to federal funding under the Industry Skills Fund and the second to meet with ACPET CEO Rod Camm regarding national developments and to meet the new Executive Director, Skills and Employment SA Department of State Development, John King.

STATE-BASED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVENTS:

Two education workshops were conducted for agents wishing to join ACPET, in addition to other professional

TASMANIA STATE COMMITTEE 2015-16

CHAIR:

NICOLE GAYEWSKI
MEGT Institute

RORY BYRNE

Seafood Training Tasmania

NEROLI ELLIS

Health Education and
Research Centre

TONY KENNEDY

Industry-link Training

MARY-LOUISE MCCARTHY

Tabor College Tasmania

SIMON WIGGINS

Avidity Training and
Development.

*To strengthen State
Committee numbers, the
following members joined the
committee in 2016:*

CHARMAINE REDDING

THS RTO Connect

PAULA ROBERTSON

Royal Life Saving Society
Australia

An ACPET State Committee was established for the first time in Tasmania in 2015.



ACPET State Director for Tasmania Nicole Gayewski and MEGT Institute staff celebrating their Awards for Tasmanian Small Provider of the Year and Industry Collaboration.

ACPET efforts in Tasmania during 2015-16 were directed towards growing the membership and raising awareness about ACPET services, and establishing a strong Tasmanian State Committee for local advocacy.

In addition, there was considerable activity around building RTO interest and capacity in growing the local international student market to contribute to the local economy, in line with national developments.

ADVOCACY, POLICY & GOVERNMENT

The ACPET State Director and Executive Officer for Tasmania met with staff of Skills Tasmania on several occasions to discuss local policy and funding issues. In particular,

TASMANIA

state views were sought around the issue of federalism and support for addressing the needs of smaller states.

A meeting was also held with staff of the Department of State Growth to discuss ways of working together to grow the international student market and to seek sponsorship for the ACPET 2016 National Conference.



The ACPET Booth at the Skills and Workforce Development Conference in Hobart, May 2016.

Tasmanian Government sponsorship was obtained to support international delegates to attend the ACPET's Asia Pacific International Education Forum (APIEF) and national conference in Hobart.

ACPET sponsored an information booth at the Skills Tasmania, Skills and Workforce Development Conference in May 2016 and conducted café conversations with participants regarding ACPET membership and services, a consultation regarding proposed VET FEE-HELP reforms and a workshop to promote RTO involvement in international education both on and offshore.

GOOD NEWS STORIES

ACPET member MEGT Institute Tasmania won the Tasmanian Small Provider of the Year Award and Industry Collaboration Award with Clennett's Mitre 10 and Whitelion Incorporated.

STATE-BASED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVENTS

Face to face professional development workshops were well received in Tasmania including the LLN Foundations Skills series. However, the number of workshops provided was hampered by insufficient participant numbers.

It is anticipated that by growing the membership and the strength of the ACPET State Committee that awareness of ACPET services and Professional Development opportunities will grow, particularly with the National Conference being held in Hobart in August 2016.

NORTHERN TERRITORY STATE COMMITTEE 2015-16

CHAIR: SEAN MAHONEY
ICAE

JO FOX
Fox Education

JOSHUA BLAKE
Skilled Workforce Australia

COS RUSSO
Transforming Training - NT
(resigned July 2016)

MADLINE LYSART-WRIGHT
Apprenticeships Australia

DEB CARR
RTOtemp help (resigned Feb
2016)

ACPET continues to nurture a close working relationship with members, local industry and the NT Government and is now in the fourth year of an ACPET Department of Business Memorandum of Agreement whereby ACPET supports all private providers with the implementation of VET reforms and other matters of relevance.

HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Throughout 2015-16, ACPET continued to take a key role in reform and policy discussions and in the conduct of relevant RTO information and professional development sessions, promoted through regular communications either through ACPET or courtesy of the departmental network.

ACPET hosted and/or facilitated a number of VET sessions in Darwin and conducted two NT VET Forums in Darwin with the support of the Department of Business.

The ACPET NT Executive Officer was active on a number of NT steering and reference groups.

In order to further support the VET sector, ACPET with the support of local stakeholders has reinvigorated two Territory RTO practitioner clusters, CATN (Central Australia and Training Network) and TETN (Top End Education and Training Network).

ADVOCACY, POLICY & GOVERNMENT

ACPET assisted the Department with its roll out of both Territory focused and national VET reforms and the broader aims of promoting an efficient and responsive training sector, through the following activities:

- thought leadership and interactions with RTOs, the Department and other stakeholders including the Training Advisory

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Councils in advocating for phased and appropriate reforms;

- in-house sessions with RTOs on the implications of the VET reforms, the directions for VET FEE-HELP and the roll out of the student entitlement model;
- building the capacity of the NT VET sector;
- promotion of events and initiatives on both a local and national level to RTOs, practitioners and stakeholders through the National Monday Update and the ACPET Professional Development program
- discussions with individual RTOs in relation to the operation of ACPET nationally, ACPET in the NT and the arrangement between ACPET and the Department in order to clarify roles and responsibilities aligned to ACPET services and the assistance provided specific to the NT VET reform processes.

ACPET NT was a member of:

- NT Chamber of Commerce
- NT International Business Council, and
- NT International Round Table (Chair, Sean Mahoney)

STATE-BASED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVENTS

Over 250 NT RTO participants attended an ACPET hosted PD or information session throughout the year, with NT RTO representatives also accessing the national PD program and attending ACPET's National Conference

The NT Government has as a priority the forging of closer links to our Asian neighbours, with an increase in incoming student numbers a priority area. There has also been considerable activity in regards to the national endeavours on developing Northern Australia. The

ACPET NT Executive Officer gave a presentation at the Developing Northern Australian Conference held in Darwin in June 2016.

ACPET was also able to accompany a member mission to Manila in May 2016 to assist in forging linkages with local institutions to deliver Australian qualifications.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA STATE COMMITTEE 2015-16

CHAIR: ANDREW CREVALD

Curtin College

ROBYN ADAMS

The University of Notre Dame Australia

JASON ALLEN,

LTT Group

PATRICIA FULCHER

RTO Doctor (resigned August 2016)

LINA RIDLEY

PIBT

ROHINI MODGILL

Keystone College of Business and Technology

SEAN TUHAKARAINA

West Australian Institute of Further Studies

STEPHEN MACKAY

Engineering Institute of Technology (resigned July 2016)

SUSAN LAWTON

DNA Kingston Training

TRISH RIDLEY

Activ Pathways

In 2015, ACPET welcomed Robyn Adams (The University of Notre Dame Australia), Jason Allen (LTT Group) and Patricia Fulcher (RTO Doctor) to the WA State Committee, while Debra Graham (Australian Institute of Fitness), Terry Richards (Australian College of Training) and Brad Tout (Youth With a Mission) were acknowledged for their service and contribution as they stepped down from the Committee.

The WA Committee met regularly during the year:

- > in August 2015, hosted by Rohini Modgill at Keystone College of Business and Technology;
- > November 2015 at Curtin College, hosted by ACPET WA State Director Andrew Crevald;
- > February 2016, at an extended Committee planning meeting hosted by Susan Lawton (DNA Kingston Training);
- > in April 2016 at ACTIV Pathways hosted by Trish Ridley; and
- > in June 2016 on two separate occasions, first with CEO Rod Camm and ACPET National Chair Mel Koumides prior to a member briefing at the Parmelia Hotel; and later that month at Engineering Institute of Technology (hosted by Steve Mackay).

Committee priorities in 2015-16 included:

- > positioning WA for renewed growth in international education:- it is pleasing to report signs now of a growing recognition by Government of opportunities and benefits to the State from engaging with the private sector to build this industry;
- > engaging with both the Department of Training and Workforce Development and the State Training Board on behalf

of ACPET members to influence a more inclusive approach to reform of the vocational education and training sector;

- a commitment to highlight achievements of ACPET members and their students within a social inclusion context:- a student-driven campaign was instigated to build a bank of member case studies under the national 'Good News Story' umbrella, which will result in those achievements being more widely appreciated in the community and within our industry and
- delivering professional development to members in a format that builds networks as well as knowledge in priority areas:- members have had the opportunity to participate in a range of forums on topics during the year that included regulation, VET reform, the apprenticeship system, USI, social inclusion, international and higher education, as well as opportunities to meet and provide feedback to CEO Rod Camm on their priorities for ACPET in the present and future.

ACPET takes this opportunity to thank committee members and in particular WA State Director Andrew Crevald (Curtin College) for invaluable support, strategic advice and representation at every available opportunity.

ACPET WA members have been as concerned as many others about the damage caused to the reputation of the vocational education and training sector by the widely reported activities of a small number of providers who have dominated media, regulator and policy-makers' attention as well as the time and resources of the ACPET Board, staff, members and affected students.

In a sign of continued straitened economic times, the 2016-17 WA Budget revealed further reductions lie ahead for the training and workforce development portfolio.

A Training Sector Reform project is currently underway, with ACPET involved in consultations focusing on greater systemic transparency and simplicity, and a continuing commitment to quality and efficiency.

HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

ACPET WA members continued to innovate, engage and excel in the delivery of high quality vocational, international and higher education. Among the noteworthy achievements were the University of Notre Dame, which excelled across all performance benchmarks in the QILT (Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching) student survey results.



Delegates at the 2015 ACPET WA Private Providers Forum, October 2015

DNA Kingston Training was recognised as Western Australia's international training provider of the year in 2015 in the WA Training Awards while AMA Training Services trained Kahli King Elliott, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year. Trainwest was a 2015 finalist in the category of Small Training Provider of the Year.

Engineering Institute of Technology was named 2015 WA Industry and Export Award winner in the Education and Training export category, with a special commendation to Stanley College in the same category.

ACPET CEO Rod Camm visited Western Australia twice during the year, most recently in June with ACPET National Chair Mel Koumides to brief members on changes in the tertiary education landscape, and as a guest of the Department of Training and Workforce Development to address delegates at the 2016 WA Training Providers' Forum, and participate in a number of panel discussions.

In 2015-16 ACPET WA continued to engage with the Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD) in a series of 'Think Tank' policy meetings, and with the Apprenticeship Office in round table discussions to brief members on the rollout of new apprenticeship system arrangements.

State Training Board Chair Mr Jim Walker was joined by WA Executive Officer Larry Davies in a number of member site visits early in 2016, to see and hear of the challenges and accomplishments of private sector vocational training institutions.

ACPET concluded the 2015-16 year with a networking function to farewell Larry Davies, whose record of service at a national and state level has contributed much to the collective knowledge, experience and capability of our organisation over the past decade. ACPET WA wishes Larry the very best and looks forward to his continuing contribution as a member and respected industry voice on the challenges that lie ahead.

ADVOCACY, POLICY & GOVERNMENT

Key policy priorities for WA members, and pursued by ACPET on their behalf during 2015-16 included:



Former ACPET WA EO and Company Secretary Larry Davies is bid farewell by ACPET Chair Mel Koumides

(a) international education:

- ▶ providing financial and membership support to the WAPETIA (WA Private Education and Training Industry Association) commissioned research being conducted by the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre, which will lead to recommendations for strategic growth and development of the international education services sector in Western Australia;
- ▶ representation on the Board of StudyPerth through ACPET WA Chair Andrew Crevald (Curtin College) and WA Committee member Susan Lawton (DNA Kingstons Training) – StudyPerth provides a leadership role in building the profile of international education in WA and overseas;
- ▶ a continuing dialogue with relevant agencies and Ministerial offices in Western Australia, including discussions with Minister Collier (August 2015), Minister Harvey (August 2015/June 2016) and Minister Marmion (June 2016) and their respective staff and senior Departmental officers throughout the year;

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- > in January 2016 hosting a joint ACPET-WAPETIA round table international education forum at CCIWA to engage with, provide information and support to members delivering international education services in Western Australia;
- > in November 2015, ACPET member representation by WA Executive Officer Larry Davies at the ICEF Berlin Workshop for international educators, agents and service providers – an opportunity to connect with several thousand participants over three days of targeted meetings, seminars and networking. (ICEF Berlin is the largest international education focussed networking forum anywhere in the world and included 1 366 educators, service providers, associations, and work & travel organisations and 1 094 international education agents from 103 countries);



Rod Camm addresses the audience at WA Training Providers Forum 2016

- > in October 2015, a WA Members' Forum (~ 60 participants) with 'Global Opportunities – Local Growth' presentations from Austrade (Sarah Stanton-French, International Student Adviser) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Ms Andrea Gleason, State Director) along with senior industry colleagues outlining business and trade opportunities in the export of education services;
 - > in September 2015, hosting 38 members from 25 Universities who were delegates from Indonesia's APTISI (Asosiasi Penguruan Tinggi Swasta Indonesia, or the Private Higher Education Association of Indonesia) to officially sign a Memorandum of Co-operation (MoC) between the two membership associations. The MoC was signed by Professor Edy Suandi Hamid – APTISI President and Mr Andrew Crevald – ACPET WA Director, witnessed by the Indonesian Consul General for Western Australia Mr Ade Padmo Sarwono at the Perth Campus of the Australian College of Advanced Education (ACAE)
- (b) VET delivery, regulation and compliance:
- > engaging with State and Commonwealth Departments of Education and Training to respond to USI implementation and lodgement issues;
 - > ACPET representation by WA Executive Officer Larry Davies on the Workforce Development Forum of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry WA;
 - > regular round table 'Think Tank' discussions with senior officers of the Department of Training and Workforce Development;
 - > representations to the Australian Industry & Skills Council concerning Training Package reform and implementation issues arising;
 - > hosting the State Training Board at their meeting in June 2016, and member site visits by Chair Jim Walker in February

2016 to familiarise Board members with the private education and training sector;

- > a submission to the WA Training Sector Reform project (Phase 1) via CCIWA and facilitating member consultations (Phase 2);
- > round table discussions with the Apprenticeship Office to workshop new compliance and system challenges.

STATE-BASED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVENTS

The annual ACPET WA Private Provider Forum was held in October 2015, with distinguished speakers and wide ranging program developed within the overarching theme: Vision Strategy Action!

Other professional development events during the year included:

JULY 2015: USI 'Working Party';

AUGUST 2015: Breakfast briefing by the ACPET CEO;

JANUARY 2016: International education round table;

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2016: Apprenticeship & Traineeship Round table;

APRIL 2016: Preferred Education Agent/ Broker workshop;

JUNE 2016: CEO Round table forum;

JUNE 2016: TAE Validation workshop.

Members also enjoyed social networking events through the year, including end-of-year festivities held at Northbridge Brewing Company, attended by DTWD Director General Dr Ruth Shean.

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