Media Release
Embargoed to Monday, 27th July 2009

Education Agents Register To Provide Better Information for Students

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) announced today that it would develop a register of high quality overseas education agents to better equip students seeking the best information about studying in Australia.

ACPET CEO, Andrew Smith, said the Education Agent Register would raise the quality of educational outcomes for international students by providing better consumer information to students.

“Every international student in Australia deserves to receive the best possible education and to have an enriching and positive experience during their studies,” Mr Smith said.

“Education agents play an important role in providing information to students, but it is critical that students know where to find reliable, trusted agents that meet the highest standards, in order to make informed decisions about their studies.”

“By supporting informed choice by students, the Education Agent Register will play an important role in further developing the quality of education and training in the international education market.”

Mr Smith said the recent concerns of international students had rightly placed the actions of some education agents in India under close scrutiny, and the Education Agent Register was one of a number of steps ACPET was taking to respond to student concerns.

“The Education Agent Register builds upon a number of initiatives ACPET has undertaken to address student concerns, including the development of a safety information brochure for students, professional development courses for institutions focused on supporting student safety in the community and the announcement of a major student experience survey to examine the experiences of international students in Australia.”

The Education Agent Register, which will be available online, will establish tough criteria for admittance to ensure students know where they can find a reputable agent that meets the standards our community expects.

“Our intention is that the Education Agent Register will bring greater transparency to the operation of the agent market and in turn improve outcomes for students,” Mr Smith said.

The Register was not intended to be a regulatory or accreditation framework but an information tool to support the relationship between students, agent and education provider through supporting informed choice, Mr Smith added.

Media Contact: Ben Eade, Wilkinson Media on 0434 708 095