MEDIA STATEMENT
Wednesday, 2nd September 2009

ACPET Reassures Sterling College Students

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training said today that students affected by the recent closure of Sterling College will be transferred to alternative education institutions as previously advised, and the peak body called upon commentators to check the facts before suggesting otherwise.

“Through its Tuition Assurance Scheme, ACPET staff have worked tirelessly with member institutions and relevant authorities to arrange placement offers for the majority of Sterling College students,” said ACPET CEO, Andrew Smith.

“While unforeseen circumstances have led to delays in this process, I want to reassure students still awaiting a placement offer that that they can still expect to be offered a placement at a new institution in the coming weeks.

“I am extremely disappointed that some commentators have created undue alarm or uncertainty among students by suggesting that students are being left ‘in limbo’ or that their visas are at risk, and I would ask these commentators to be more responsible in the public comments they make,” Mr Smith said.

“The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) attended the first student meeting and have reassured students that their visas are not at immediate risk as a result of the closures. Any student with concerns about the status of their visa should contact DIAC directly to discuss their circumstances.

“We are aware that this is a difficult time for many students but I can assure them that we are doing all we can to support those students who have not yet received offers of an alternative placement,” Mr Smith added.

Any student who has not yet contacted ACPET seeking a placement is encouraged to do so by emailing sterling@acpet.edu.au

Andrew Smith is available for comment
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