MEDIA Release  
Thursday 8\textsuperscript{th} October, 2009

**Education Scholarships for Bushfire Victims.**

The generosity of Victoria’s education providers will be highlighted this afternoon at the launch of a scholarship program to support victims of the Black Saturday Bushfires.

The Member for Yan Yean, Danielle Green MP, will join Ben Hubbard, CEO of the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction & Recovery Authority, and members colleges of the Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) to launch the program.

Coordinated by the Australian Council for Private Education and Training, the scholarship program was initiated soon after the devastating bushfires of early 2009, to provide opportunities for victims to gain new skills or equip themselves if they wanted to or were forced to start a new career.

ACPET CEO, Andrew Smith, said he was tremendously proud and humbled by the generosity of ACPET members, with some individual donations exceeding $60,000.

“We have scholarships ranging from short courses through to Graduate Diplomas, in areas as diverse as bricklaying, healthcare, hairdressing, business management, digital animation and fitness,” Mr Smith said.

“We have received more than $420,000 in donations so far, with many more coming in,”

“In addition, the ACPET board has pledged $30,000 as an initial contribution to the program.”

Mr Smith said typically the smallest institutions have given discounts to their existing courses and others have offered multiple scholarships in any course they run, while some have proposed running short courses at any location for large groups.

“This is a great example of our industry coming together in a very practical way to support the Victorian community to recover from a devastating event.”

**MEDIA EVENT:**
What: ACPET Bushfire Victims’ Scholarships Event  
When: Thursday, 8\textsuperscript{th} October, 2009, 4:00pm to 6:00pm  
Who: Danielle Green, local member for Kinglake area  
Ben Hubbard CEO of the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction & Recovery Authority  
Andrew Smith, CEO, ACPET  
Sponsoring Registered Training Organisations  
Contact: Ben Eade, 0434 708 095