The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) today welcomed the Federal Government’s ‘Job Ready Program,’ saying a skills test for migrants will better meet the needs of Australian employers and strengthen our targeted skilled migration program.

ACPET has long argued that trade skills among migrants are highly valued by Australian industry, and that Australian training combined with a thorough skills test is the best way to ensure skilled migrants meet the needs of industry and make a sustained contribution to growing the Australian economy.

“Quite simply, our nation's overall stability involves one particular key ingredient: human capital,” said ACPET CEO, Andrew Smith.

“The introduction of a skills test to ensure migrants have the language and skills needed to participate in the labour market will strengthen our international education sector, deliver better outcomes for employers and help international students to achieve their career goals.”

Ruth Browne of the Hairdressing and Beauty Industry Association echoed Mr Smith’s sentiments, saying the announcement was a significant step forward for the industry.

“While we have a skills shortage in our industry it is a shortage of highly skilled practitioners, requiring specialised instruction and skills development,” she said.

“We welcome the Government's announcement of a skills testing regime and in particular the practical industry skills test component, and we congratulate ACPET for its leadership of this issue for more than 12 months.”

Andrew Smith said he looked forward to working with Government on the implementation and evaluation of this important initiative and hoped to see more moves in the new year to strengthen the ties between Australian industry and the Vocational Education and Training sector.

“Australia needs skilled workers in many industries. A thriving VET sector, with strong links to industry and nationally consistent accreditation and regulatory practices is the best way to achieve that,” Mr Smith said.

Andrew Smith is available for comment
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