MEDIA RELEASE
9th March, 2009

ACPET believes Australia will benefit from improved educational equity

The third Federal Government announcement in response to the Bradley Review, relating to equity and access, has been welcomed today by the Australian College for Private Education and Training (ACPET).

“The future prosperity of Australia, and our international competitiveness realistically hinge on more students- from all backgrounds- being able to access quality education,” Andrew Smith, National Executive Officer of ACPET said.

“We believe that encouraging all people, regardless of their background, to access and attain quality education is vital and that institutions and governments do have a central role to play in making this happen,” he said.

“This announcement is in line with a range of activities already being undertaken by private providers to encourage wider participation.

“ACPET supports changes to better align public funding to student demand and to encourage wider participation and ongoing learning across the tertiary education system.

“Educators and institutions must do all they can to help talented students reach their full potential. The social and economic benefits of this for us all are huge,” Mr Smith said.

“Higher education in Australia is changing and will continue to change and it is in the nations, and its citizens, best interests to respond positively and practically to these changes.

“It is vital for Australia’s prosperity that the entire higher education sector works together in responding to these changes in order to achieve the best outcomes for students and for our country’s future,” he said. “Quality education is the cornerstone of improved productivity, quality of life and better life prospects- we welcome any measure to encourage people to take up education but we also hope that the same encouragement is applied to vocational training.

“ACPET is committed to developing a single Australian Higher Education System that will deliver high quality, diverse education options for all students- regardless of their socioeconomic status,” Mr Smith said.

“We look forward to working with the Government to develop the detail on how these measures can be appropriately supported and implemented,” Mr Smith said.

Media Contact: Symon Madry, Wilkinson Media 02 8001 8888; 0409 919 508

ACPET represents over 1,100 providers of school, vocational and higher education in every State and Territory and in all fields of education and training. Our members educate close to 1 million domestic and overseas students at institutions that range from large multinational organisations to hundreds of small and medium businesses.