MEDIA RELEASE  
Tuesday, May 11th 2010

Federal Budget Reinforces Importance of Education & Training To Meeting Skills Shortages

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) said tonight that it was pleased the Federal Budget detailed investment in training to meet skills shortages in Australia’s economy.

The peak body said it would review the measures in detail and respond further in the coming days, adding that it hoped the details recognised the private vocational education and training sector’s track record of success in delivering industry-relevant, high quality training.

Speaking after the budget broadcast, ACPET CEO, Andrew Smith, said the Government’s ‘Skills for Sustainable Growth’ package was welcome acknowledgement of the need for progressive training and education in order to meet critical skills shortages across several industries.

“Quite simply, our nation’s overall stability involves one particular key ingredient: human capital,” Mr Smith said.

“Having a skilled and diverse workforce is critical to our ongoing economic development.”

“Australia needs skilled workers armed with useful, practical vocational qualifications in areas such as agriculture, aged care, child care, the emerging green energy industries, building and construction and traditional trades.”

“ACPET looks forward to reviewing these initiatives in detail and working with the Government as it implements this package.”

“We hope and expect that these measures will see Australia’s high quality, private, vocational institutions supported to develop innovative training packages that address skills shortages for the benefit of all Australians.”

About ACPET:
ACPET is the leading industry body, which represents more than 1100 private colleges and institutions nation-wide. Interacting directly with college and institute owners on a regular basis, ACPET has a firm grasp on the issues facing the industry and has been attempting to put forward solutions which benefit all stakeholders.