MEDIA STATEMENT
Thursday, November 11th, 2010

ACPET Outlines Priorities for Victoria’s Education and Training Sector

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) today urged the Victorian Government and Opposition to move to a national regulatory model, increase teaching capacity through professional development, and encourage student choice through equitable funding for the State’s education and training sector.

The peak body also called upon the State’s leaders to allocate funding to support the State’s largest export industry, international education, saying an additional $10 million was needed to fund the initiatives already agreed to by the Government’s international education expert reference group.

“ACPET is committed to a training system founded on principles of increased student choice and encouragement for enterprises to invest in training,” said ACPET A/g CEO, Claire Field.

“High quality private training institutions make an enormous contribution to the state of Victoria, providing education at certificate, diploma and degree levels to around 339,000 full-time equivalent students.

“Our sector is preparing students for careers in areas such as business, aged care, child-care, communications, design, IT, fitness and property services, as well as all of the traditional trades such as automotive, building and construction, hairdressing, hospitality and plumbing.”

“If Victoria’s leaders are serious about meeting the State’s productivity and skills targets, they need to invest in a training system that supports growth in a dynamic private education sector and removes outdated barriers between public and private institutions.”

“I urge Victoria’s political leaders to review ACPET’s policy questions for the 2010 State Election and outlines their plans to address the following priorities.”

1. Wider access to public training funds for training by individuals and enterprises
2. Operational improvement in applying Victorian education and training regulations
3. Convergence with national regulation directions
4. Investment in professional development for all vocational training personnel, and
5. Revitalising international education in Victoria.

Claire Field is available for comment.

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