MEDIA RELEASE
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ACPET Welcomes Critical Skills Investment Fund
Linking Skilled Occupation List to Labour Market Data Should Be Priority


ACPET A/g CEO, Claire Field, said she looked forward to working cooperatively with the advisory board to ensure that Australia’s tertiary education sector meets the needs of a wide range of industries with increasingly deep skills shortages.

“An effective tertiary education sector is one that is responsive to the needs of industry and community, and seeks to build strong partnerships with business,” Ms Field said.

“ACPET welcomes the Government’s support for training enterprises to stimulate lasting partnerships with industry, and I commend the appointment of several representatives of the Australian business community to the Fund’s advisory board.”

Ms Field said addressing critical skills shortages and Australia’s ageing workforce was one of the nation’s highest priorities, and must be addressed through a combination of education and training, well implemented labour market incentives and targeted migration.

But Ms Field warned that linking the Skilled Occupations List for inbound migration to transparent, labour market data was critical if the Federal Government truly hopes to address skills shortages and underpin productivity.

“The Australian Government is rightly reinforcing the importance of investing in skills, along with the importance of international education as a migration pathway.”

“However, changes to the skilled migration points test and Skilled Occupations List are effectively devaluing several skilled occupations that are in very high demand throughout Australian industry.”

“The Federal Government fund must link the migration Skilled Occupations List to the needs of Australian industry if it is to address productivity challenges in the Australian economy into the future.”

Claire Field is available for comment
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