MEDIA STATEMENT
2 December 2010

Regulatory Changes Good News for NSW

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) today congratulated the NSW government on its commitment to regulatory reform and national consistency in regulation of the vocational training sector.

ACPET A/g CEO, Claire Field, said high quality, national regulation of Australia’s vocational education and training sector would benefit institutions, students and the NSW economy alike, and expressed her concern at statements attributed to Greens MP, John Kaye that private VET institutions offered lower quality services that publicly-funded VET institutions.

“TAFE Institutes are an important part of the NSW VET sector. Many of ACPET’s members are very proud to work in partnership with TAFE institutes to offer students greater choice and diversity in their study options,” Ms Field said.

“In NSW and nationally, TAFE and private training providers make a substantial contribution to the well being of individuals and communities and to the government’s economic agenda. More than 1.4million FTE students study in private vocational education and training institutions each year.”

“Both the public and private vocational training sector have an important role to play in NSW. It’s time we moved on from endlessly debating the merits of public and private ownership and instead focussed our attention on improved funding and regulation for the vocational training sector in NSW. High quality, flexible and responsive training that meets the needs of individuals and employers is what we should be focussing on.”

“ACPET members are committed to a new national regulatory approach which is tougher on poor quality provision, and which rewards high-performing institutions. It is inaccurate to claim that a move to a national regulator will result in lower standards.”

Ms Field said that “employer support for the private sector is evident in statistics released by the independent National Centre for Vocational Education Research, which show that students that complete a VET qualifcation in a private institution are currently more likely to gain employment than those who study at TAFE.”

“ACPET has long advocated for a single national regulator to oversee Australia’s tertiary education sector. This will bring greater consistency, objectivity and efficiency to the sector, and benefit students as well as industry.”

“But the road to regulatory reform is made all the more difficult by the inaccurate assertions such as Mr Kaye’s, which seek to deepen outdated divisions between private and public institutions.

Claire Field is available for comment.
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