Establishment of the National VET Regulator

The Australian Government will continue to drive Australia’s skills revolution by creating a single national regulator for the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector.

The *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Bill 2010*, to be introduced into Parliament today, will establish a national regulator for the VET sector, taking over from existing state-based VET regulators.

“The new regulator will ensure that students are better equipped to take advantage of the growing economy, and give employers greater confidence in the skills of Australia’s VET graduates,” said Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills, Senator Chris Evans.

New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory have agreed that the new National VET Regulator will take over the functions of existing regulators in those states and territories.

Victoria and Western Australia will continue to regulate providers operating exclusively in their states, except those providers enrolling international students.

Once established, the National VET Regulator will ensure that national standards are met, and will strengthen quality assurance for more than 1.2 million students and thousands of Australian businesses committed to the sector.

“The new arrangements will improve the consistency of regulation across the country, making it easier to respond to emerging challenges in areas of critical skills shortage,” Senator Evans said.

“With around 37% of international students studying in the VET sector, the establishment of the national regulator is also an important measure to ensure quality and sustainability in international education.”

The Bill has been developed through extensive consultation with states and territories, industry and the VET sector to ensure a smooth and timely transition to the regulator, which will be operational from April 2011.

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to establish a national regulator for the VET sector in December 2009.
The Government has committed $55 million over four years to create the National VET Regulator, as part of the Skills for Sustainable Growth package announced in this year’s Federal Budget.

Further information on the National VET regulator is available at www.deewr.gov.au/vetregulator.

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