MEDIA STATEMENT  
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Skills Reform A Great Opportunity for VET Sector

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) today congratulated Skills Australia on the release of its Skills for Prosperity, a Roadmap for Vocational Education and Training paper, with the education peak body saying the focus on demand driven and outcomes-focused operation would strengthen Australia’s training sector.

ACPET A/g CEO, Paula Johnston, said she was pleased that Skills Australia has recommended meaningful reforms to areas not previously covered by education sector reform.

“Skills Australia has outlined ambitious, forward-thinking reforms to Australia’s Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector, and we encourage the Australian Government to work with the education sector and broader Australian industry to adopt these principles and get the implementation right.” Ms Johnston said.

“ACPET has long supported the principles outlined in Skills Australia’s report, particularly a rigorous focus on quality, a demand-driven model of operation and funding based on training outcomes.”

Ms Johnston said that as Australia’s economy and industry changes, it was critical the Australian Government continue its reformist approach to Australia’s education and training sector.

“Previous reforms to Australia’s higher education and schools sectors have helped to improve the diversity, quality and innovation of those sectors. The Australian Government has the opportunity to continue that approach through bold reforms to the VET sector, and we would strongly encourage them to do that.

“Vocational Education and Training in Australia has evolved tremendously in recent years, making it all the more important that governance changes keep pace with industry.”

“Of course, as is so often the case, the challenge for reforming Australia’s VET sector will be to implement these reforms efficiently and effectively, and to avoid duplication or added bureaucratic burden on providers that stifles innovation and diversity in the market. ACPET stands ready to work alongside the government to do that.”

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