MEDIA RELEASE
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Incomplete Data Requires Training Rethink

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) today welcomed the acknowledgement by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) that apprentice completion rates are in reality higher than previously reported.

ACPET Acting CEO, Paula Johnston, said that NCVER rightly pointed out today that data which had informed recent reports aimed at improving Australia’s apprenticeship system, indicated low completion rates because it didn’t take into account recommencements or ‘employer swapping’.

“ACPET absolutely welcomes the Federal Government’s commitment to improving the performance of the Australian Apprenticeship system,” Ms Johnston said.

“We do want to be sure, however, that Government, industry and the sector understand that data which has been used to inform the Apprenticeships for the 21st Century report, does not paint the complete picture.”

“Recent research from Service Skills Australia and the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry found completion rates in the vocational education and training sector are much higher than the NCVER originally reported, so we are appealing to government to recognise that the updated data NCVER has provided needs to be taken into account in their deliberations of the report,” she said.

Put simply, the Federal Government cannot develop sound policy for the future of the vocational education and training system if it relies on incomplete data. ”

Ms Johnston also said it was vital that the Government work closely with business and industry to consider the implications of mooted changes.

“Reforming Australia’s training system will have wide-ranging ramifications for training institutions around the country; on trainees and apprentices themselves; on industry and small business, so it is critical that Government and industry work together on this.”

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