MEDIA RELEASE
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Budget Puts Training In Focus, But Real Reform Still Blurry

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) said tonight that it was pleased the Federal Budget detailed investment in vocational education and training that would address skills shortages in Australia’s economy and help disadvantaged Australians access training.

But speaking after the budget broadcast ACPET acting CEO, Paula Johnston, said despite the welcome focus on training reform, there remained scant detail on how the outlined measures would help the sector to be more responsive to student and industry demand.

“This Budget is rightly focused on using the training system as part of the puzzle that promotes the transition from being unemployed or under employed to a more skilled, more employable person.”

“We welcome apprenticeship reform and, in particular, investment in language, literacy and numeracy programs, which we are confident ACPET members will continue to deliver to a very high standard.”

But Ms Johnston said the Government’s opportunity to outline genuinely ambitious reforms to Australia’s training sector had been missed, with little detail what the $1.75 billion reform program will achieve.

“Reforms to the training system need to deliver benefit back to students, back to communities and back to Australian industry, but this Budget doesn’t outline how it will do that.”

“The new national workforce development fund for enterprises is a start, but a truly demand-driven training sector, one in which students and enterprises are well informed and choose their training provider, still eludes us.”

“ACPET would like to see how the National Workforce and Productivity Agency and Industry Skills Councils will deliver real outcomes without adding unnecessary bureaucratic burden that takes us further away from the nimble, responsive, flexible training sector modern industry needs and modern students want.”

“We hope more will become clear during the future National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development negotiations. ACPET looks forward to working with the Government to gain a greater understanding of the details in these measures and how we can assist in delivering on them.”

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