MEDIA STATEMENT
Monday, July 4th 2011

National Training Regulator Major Achievement for Tertiary Sector

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) today welcomed the commencement of the Australian Skills Quality Agency (ASQA), heralding it as one of the most significant reforms to Australia’s tertiary sector in recent times.

The peak body said the ASQA, a national regulator for vocational education and training in Australia which commenced its work on Friday 1 July, should bring fundamental improvements to the regulation of the sector and make life easier for students, institutions and Governments alike.

“ACPET has long advocated for a single national regulator capable of, and responsible for, overseeing our national training sector,” said ACPET CEO, Claire Field.

“ACPET applauds the Australian Government for its determination to deliver a nationally consistent playing field for the regulation of registered training organisations, and the substantial commitment of funding and personnel it has made to make the ASQA a success.”

Ms Field said the establishment of the ASQA was a significant milestone not only for the education sector, but in the broader history of the Australian Federation.

“On fewer than a dozen previous occasions in any area of public policy have State governments agreed to relinquish powers to the Commonwealth,” she said.

“That this is one of those rare occurrences is testament to the fundamental importance of training reform for Australia’s productivity and future prosperity.”

ACPET welcomes, in particular, commitments from the Australian Government and ASQA’s new Acting Chief Commissioner to ongoing dialogue and consultation with the training sector to ensure the new regulator works as it is intended to.

ASQA has agreed to consult with the sector peak bodies on a regular basis – every two months – to assist in ensuring their approach lives up to the expectations of the sector.

“The Minister, Senator Evans, has shown good faith in listening to the concerns of the sector in relation to the ASQA. We look forward to continuing to work with the Government to ensure the success of this important new body,” Ms Field said.

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