MEDIA STATEMENT
Tuesday, 2nd August, 2011

Private Sector Welcomes New Higher Education Regulator

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) today welcomed the commencement of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), saying the new body would help Australia’s higher education sector adapt to changing demand from students and industry.

The peak body said TEQSA, the national regulator for Higher Education in Australia, which commenced operation yesterday, should bring greater consistency, fairness and effectiveness to higher education regulation 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 higher education sector,” said ACPET CEO, Claire Field.

“Higher education in Australia is changing, with more diverse institutions and courses available for students than ever before. ACPET strongly supports TEQSA’s focus on enforcing high quality teaching and learning standards while supporting that vital diversity.”

Ms Field said the continued growth of private higher education in Australia was one reason the regulatory system had long been due for an overhaul.

“Higher education in Australia is changing. Private institutions now award around one in ten tertiary qualifications and deliver high quality, innovative higher education to more than 50,000 students,” she said.

“ACPET is doing its part to maintain high quality standards and keep pace with student demand by introducing benchmarking tools that help private higher education providers to constantly improve their courses and services.”

“It’s vital that our regulatory framework also keeps pace with the changing higher sector by providing a level playing field for private and public providers, so that students are free to choose the institution that’s right for them.”

“The Minister, Senator Evans, has shown good faith in listening to the concerns of the private sector in relation to TEQSA. 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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