MEDIA RELEASE
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Education and Training Leaders Join Historic Trade Delegation to China

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) and several of its members are among the 100 delegates from across the services sector that will return to Australia tonight from a 5-day, 5 city trade mission to China led by Trade Minister, Dr Craig Emerson.

In the first time so many business leaders have travelled to China with the Australian Government, the historic trade mission focused on the next phase of economic partnership between Australia and China, as China moves from an export-led growth economy to the growth of its middle-class and the demand for consumer products and services.

ACPET CEO, Claire Field, said that with one in five delegates being education representatives, and one in ten ACPET members, the trade mission highlights the importance of education in Australia's engagement with China, and the flexibility and leadership of the private education sector.

“Australia’s educational partnership with China presents tremendous opportunities for our two nations, not just through the now frequent exchange of international students in both directions, but also increasingly in the establishment of Australian educational campuses in China,” Ms Field said.

“Rapid economic expansion is seeing China’s demand for quality tertiary education and training growing rapidly. ACPET members, with hard earned reputations for pioneering Australian international education, are well-placed to respond to this demand through innovative, high quality education and training, delivered offshore as well as onshore.”

“The growth of China’s economy will result in a significant expansion of the offshore presence of ACPET members, and build rewarding global partnerships between Australian providers and individuals, business and communities throughout China and the rest of the Asia-Pacific region.”

Ms Field congratulated the Minister for Trade, Dr Craig Emerson, for leading the delegation and for demonstrating the excellence of Australian education to provincial governors, mayors and business leaders, adding that she hoped Dr Emerson’s support for the education and training sector would continue as Australia sought to redress the ineffectiveness of its student visa system.

“If Australia is to realise the enormous emerging opportunity for education and training to be an integral part of Australia’s partnership with China it is vital that we get our own policy settings right.”

“Finalising the Knight Review of student visas and consulting with the international education sector on its recommendations and their implementation is the next crucial step in achieving that.”

About ACPET:
ACPET is the Australian Council for Private Education and Training - the national industry association for independent providers of post-compulsory education and training, for Australian and international students.

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