MEDIA RELEASE
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Fee Restructure Will Ease Burden on International Education

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) today welcomed an announcement by the Minister for Tertiary Education, Senator Chris Evans, that the Federal Government would lower annual registration charges for international education providers and introduce a ‘risk assessment’ fee structure for the sector.

ACPET CEO, Claire Field, said the new fee structure is good news for most high quality education and training institutions, which will welcome a reduction in annual fees as they seek to recover from a tumultuous period for Australia’s international education sector.

“l congratulate Senator Evans for announcing this important and much-needed overhaul of ESOS registration fees,” Ms Field said.

“Many high quality international education providers continue to struggle against the combined impact of global economic downturn, Australia’s inefficient student visa system and a high Australian dollar, which are all keeping international student numbers down and placing institutions under sustained pressure.”

“We certainly welcome measures which ease the burden on providers during such difficult times.”

Ms Field said that adopting the Baird Review’s recommendation to introduce risk assessments brings the international education sector into line with accepted practices in other industries, and shows that the Federal Government is committed to taking pressure off high quality institutions while maintaining the overall integrity of the sector.

“Introducing risk assessments for international education providers will help to ensure the costs of administering and regulating the sector are fairly distributed,” Ms Field said.

“Banks use risk assessments; insurance companies use risk assessments; indeed ACPET itself uses risk assessments in reviewing membership applications. They are vital to building a stronger, more resilient, international education sector, and should deliver better value-for-money for most high quality providers.”

Claire Field is available for comment
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