MEDIA RELEASE
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National Training Regulator Great Milestone, But Govt Still Must Ensure Level Playing Field

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) today congratulated the Federal Government on passing legislation to establish a national regulator for the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector.

ACPET CEO, Claire Field, said the establishment of the ‘Australian Skills Quality Agency’ is a substantial achievement that would set new standards for consistency, quality and efficiency in Australia’s training system.

Ms Field added praise to Senator Chris Evans, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations, for his commitment to future amendments that would bring the national VET regulator legislation into closer alignment with the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency legislation.

“This is a milestone achievement for Australia’s vocational education and training sector,” Ms Field said.

“ACPET has long advocated for a national regulator to oversee Australia’s VET sector, which is capable of, and accountable for, enforcing the legislative framework governing our industry.”

“A National VET Regulator will be good for institutions, good for students and good for employers relying upon consistent national training outcomes.”

However, Ms Field added that she was concerned by suggestions that public and private training institutions could be treated differently under the new legislation, and she would be appealing to the Minister for clarification about whether that is the case.

“It is absolutely critical that all high quality training institutions are treated equally in the National VET Regulator legislation and by the relevant Commissioners.”

“The purpose of this legislation is to establish a level playing field for high quality training institutions around the country. That’s what the sector wants, and it’s what students deserve.”

“It would therefore be very disappointing if, somewhere in the detail of this overwhelmingly positive new development, there were elements that would reinforce divisions between private and public institutions, or disadvantage some institutions while benefiting others.”

Claire Field is available for comment.
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