MEDIA RELEASE

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ACPET Concerned About Training Completion Data

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) today welcomed the recommendations of an expert review panel to build a simpler, more user friendly and effective Australian Apprenticeship system.

Responding to the release of the expert panel's final report to Government, ACPET said a better training system was critical to the national interest, but it warned that the data on which the report is based was incomplete, and there remained significant issues for Government to address in its response to the report.

“ACPET absolutely welcomes the Federal Government’s commitment to improving the performance of the Australian Apprenticeship system,” said ACPET CEO, Claire Field.

“We are, however, very concerned that data regarding completion rates of Australian apprentices, which has been used to inform the report does not paint the complete picture.”

“Recent research from Service Skills Australia and the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry found completion rates in the vocational education and training sector are much higher than the expert panel has reported, so we remain very concerned that the data upon which major initiatives are based must be sound,” Ms Field said.

Ms Field also said it was vital that the Government work closely with business and industry to consider the implications of mooted changes, and she said ACPET stood ready to perform that role.

“Reforming Australia’s training system will have wide-ranging ramifications for training institutions around the country; on trainees and apprentices themselves; on industry and small business, so it is critical that Government and industry work together on this.”

“But first and foremost we have to ensure that the data upon which we base changes is sound, that it is complete and that it is reliable. It's simply too important not to get right.”

Claire Field is available for comment

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