MEDIA STATEMENT
Wednesday 17th December, 2008

Skilled Migration Reforms strike the right balance, consultative approach welcome

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) today welcomed the Federal Government’s skilled migration reforms announcement, saying it appeared to strike the right balance between addressing critical skills shortages and protecting Australia’s $14 billion international education sector.

National Executive Officer, Andrew Smith, said he was looking forward to reviewing the details of the reforms and hoped that, as Australia’s third largest export industry, the stability of international education would be an important factor in the reforms.

“We understand the need for Governments to reform migration and education policy as our country’s needs change, and we are happy to work with the Government on those reforms,” Mr Smith said.

“ACPET has worked with the Federal Government extensively in recent weeks to represent the needs of Australia’s excellent international education sector, and I am pleased that today’s announcement reflects those needs to some extent.

“There are hundreds of training institutions around the country that have built their businesses around a particular legislative framework, and it is very important that reforms address the need for stability in the industry.

“It is also critical that the thousands of international students currently studying in Australia with the expectation that their studies will be valued, are given the opportunity for a rewarding career in our country,” Mr Smith said.

“International students diversify and enrich our national culture, forge longstanding personal and professional links between Australia and the rest of the world and contribute more than $14 billion to the national economy each year. “

Andrew Smith is available for comment
Media Contact: Ben Eade, Wilkinson Media, 0434 708 095