MEDIA STATEMENT
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ACPET welcomes Productivity Commission report confirming benefits of VET Reform

The CEO of the Australian Council for Private Education and Training, Claire Field, today welcomed the release of the Productivity Commission’s report on the Impacts of COAG Reforms: Business Regulation and VET.

Drawing on an analysis of the Victorian government’s VET reforms, the Victorian Training Guarantee, as well as reforms planned in South Australia through its Skills for All, and the recent COAG Agreement on Skills Reforms, the Productivity Commission finds that “there would be a gain in moving from a regulated and supply driven system to a demand driven contestable market, provided quality is maintained.”

“ACPET welcomes this finding by the Commission. The Commission’s report provides long overdue and public confirmation that the reforms taken by the Commonwealth government to the April 2012 COAG meeting are critical for the future of the Australian economy” Ms Field said.

Ms Field noted the consistency between the Commission’s findings and ACPET’s submission to the Review, specifically in relation to the need to ensure the quality of VET delivery, the need to provide information to students about provider performance, and the need for TAFEs to be structurally separated from government departments to enable them to compete with independent providers.

“In our weekly newsletter to ACPET members and in our discussions with State officials, ACPET has consistently identified the need to ensure VET reforms are sequenced so that both public and private providers can successfully transition to more contestable markets. This is a key finding of the Productivity Commission’s review” Ms Field said.

“The Commonwealth Minister, Senator Evans, is to be congratulated for the open approach he took with the sector in developing the Commonwealth’s VET reform package. The reforms are the stronger for the input stakeholders like ACPET were able to contribute. And this has now been confirmed by the Productivity Commission.”

Ms Field said “ACPET urges States yet to implement reforms to adopt the same consultative approach with stakeholders as they work on their implementation plans. No-one benefits, least of all students and employers, if reforms are not well implemented.”

Ms Field is available for comment.
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