

MEDIA RELEASE

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ACPET calls for equitable funding in Victoria

Following the release of the Victorian State Government Budget 2018/19 yesterday, the Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) welcomes additional funding to support skills development, but is concerned that the support is limited to TAFE.

If the government are committed to the current and future skills of Victorians then it is important to harness quality independent provider capacity.

Announcements of \$172 million funding allocated to offering free courses only for TAFE providers is disadvantaging private providers to be competitive in a contestable market. Private VET providers are subject to the same responsibilities and obligations as public providers. This initiative will simply deny students a choice in their provider.

Currently, around 360 independent providers operate under a Skills First contract, delivering subsidised training to Victorians.

Rod Camm, ACPET CEO explained that “students need choice that ensures the opportunity for them to select a training provider that maximises their employment opportunities, and independent providers enjoy strong student outcomes.”

“It would be a big shame to see successful training providers that achieve outstanding outcomes be penalised” Mr Camm said

There is a need for all providers to be held to the same quality and productivity benchmarks, with that said, all providers should be entitled to equitable funding provisions.

It is important that the funding is not simply used to prop up TAFE.

“We have seen firsthand in South Australia that this type of approach is not in the best interest of the students” Mr Camm said

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