

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **States and Territories commit to improving the landscape of apprenticeships and traineeships**

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) has applauded the significant step forward made by five States and Territories and the Commonwealth in the funding of much needed skills for the future.

The Northern Territory, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania have joined South Australia and New South Wales in signing on to the Turnbull Government's Skilling Australians Fund (SAF).

The SAF, which was announced in the 2017 federal budget was designed to create 300,000 apprenticeships and traineeships over 5 years through a \$1.5 billion investment.

Participating States and Territories who signed by yesterday's deadline are also entitled to a share of the \$50 million sign-on payment promised by the federal government in this year's budget.

Bruce Callaghan, ACPET Chairman, said "This is an enormous step forward and I recognise the leadership shown by Assistant Minister Karen Andrews in ensuring that a deal was done for the benefit of apprentices, trainees and employers. The approved programs will be about making sure that students are studying real qualifications that will meet vital workforce needs for the future."

Rod Camm, ACPET CEO, said "The funding will make an enormous difference. It will help employers meet their growing need for qualified skilled people and will also help stop the decline in VET funding that has been occurring for some ten years."

ACPET recognises the commitment and dedication of the five States and Territories, along with the Commonwealth Government who are collaboratively working towards a better future.

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