

MEDIA RELEASE

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New Code of Practice governs the use of education agents for private providers

A new Code of Practice governing the use of agents and brokers in the private education and training sector will be launched in Melbourne today.

Assistant Minister for Education and Training, Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, joined Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) CEO Rod Camm in launching the code, as well as a strengthened Code of Ethics for ACPET members.

Senator Birmingham praised ACPET's commitment to enhancing professional standards across its membership.

"These codes set a solid benchmark for the provision of private education and training by clearly outlining the standards we are all entitled to expect from our educational institutions," Senator Birmingham said. "They demonstrate how quality providers can play their part in delivering positive outcomes for students, employers and taxpayers."

He welcomed the new Code of Practice, which outlines for the first time a framework for agents and brokers working or partnering with ACPET members both on-shore and internationally.

"The decision to include a Code of Conduct for Agents and Brokers, to work in conjunction with a new preferred supplier list, is a critical step designed to improve the transparency of marketing and recruitment practices," Senator Birmingham said. "All parties must be open and transparent in the methods they employ to attract students."

Mr Camm said the codes clearly set out the high standards expected of members and third parties, most importantly, to act with integrity in all dealings with students. The guidelines in the codes complement the changes to VET FEE HELP outlined by Senator Birmingham yesterday.

"We want to ensure students, parents, employers and the wider community know the terms under which the course is offered as well as the quality of the training our members provide," Mr Camm said.

Mr Camm announced a new quality committee, headed by the former chairman of the Queensland Training and Employment Recognition Council, Barry Nutter, to oversee implementation of the codes.

"The standards set out in the codes are binding for our members so that the community can trust that if they study with an ACPET member, they are studying with a high quality and accountable provider," he said.

The Codes are available at <http://www.acpet.edu.au/codes>

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