

MEDIA STATEMENT

26 November 2015

Let's address the training sector's challenges, not destroy the sector

Recent articles in the Australian ('Stop the rot before vocational training system bleeds dry' and '1bn sting in vocational training college rot') are a disappointing and damaging oversimplification of the challenges faced by the vocational education and training sector, a national training peak body said today.

Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) CEO, Rod Camm, today stood by his consistent view that poor practice in the sector needs to be stopped, but said that tarring all providers with the same brush was reckless and inaccurate, and it was time for a more measured approach.

Mr Camm said it was disappointing that no attempt was made to contact the colleges highlighted in the articles to verify the assertions made, including whether they had now been cleared by the Australian Skills and Quality Authority.

"ACPET is committed to building a membership that meets high standards and abide by our code of conduct. We have continually made it very clear that we won't support poor practice in the industry or amongst our members."

"By tarring all providers with the same brush, the reports damage high quality providers rather than focusing on where the problems exist and holding regulators and funders to account appropriately. It is an extremely disappointing simplification of a serious issue," Camm said.

ACPET has called on the federal government to fast-track reforms that are stuck in the senate in order to ensure that only quality providers receive government funding.

"Reforms to introduce a training ombudsman, very clear regulations on brokers and caps on commissions also need to be introduced quickly. What is particularly concerning is that governments have not taken responsibility in the first place for ensuring only colleges of repute access such an important program."

"On the allocation of funding government should also have established high quality contract monitoring processes that closely scrutinise enrolments, completions and rate of growth to ensure they are within acceptable and sustainable limits," he said.

"If providers have significant actions against them, there is no justification for allowing them to continue enrolling students. If this is happening it is not only stunning but is condoning bad practice."

Contact:

Rod Camm, 0409484051