

MEDIA RELEASE

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Industry body concerned at potential legal action against students

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) has expressed concern at media reports that embattled provider Phoenix Institute may sue its own students for outstanding fees if placed into administration.

“The facts are that the Australian government has withheld some \$40 million in VET FEE HELP payments and the ACCC is also taking action for alleged misleading and unconscionable conduct,” said ACPET CEO Rod Camm.

“For its parent body Australian Careers Network, to now be reportedly canvassing the potential for legal action against students to recover fees if it goes into administration is very concerning,” said Mr Camm.

ACPET has long stood by the belief that students, and student welfare, must be at the forefront of every decision made by an education provider.

“We need urgent action by government and the industry to address these issues and support the students to get quality training that meets their career aspirations. ACPET does not support any action against students and calls on Phoenix to rectify the problems that have been identified,” Mr Camm said.

“There has been some very positive outcomes from the VET FEE-HELP program, with the vast majority of public and private providers committed to their students and delivering quality training and outcomes. We need to encourage more students to undertake training, including through VET FEE-HELP.”

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