

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

24 May 2016

### **Greens policy would destroy vocational training in the Illawarra**

Students and industry would be the big losers under a Greens Party policy to lock out all private training providers from vocational education and training.

Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) CEO Rod Camm said the proposal put forward by the Greens would be a disaster taking away students' right to choose their training provider and their preferred course, whilst unfairly punishing high quality private training providers right across Australia.

"This type of policy is exactly what ACPET is urging all parties to avoid this election. Students should be able to choose exactly where and what they want to study," he said.

"Hundreds of jobs of teachers and support staff at private training colleges around the South Coast of Illawarra will be at risk if the Greens policy is implemented.

"We don't need more reactive, knee jerk policy that will limit student and industry choice."

There were 13,484 students studying at private training colleges in 2014 in the electorate of Cunningham, representing more than half of all students engaged in training in that electorate alone. This announcement seems to be saying that Government, under the Greens, would make the choice for students about where they study.

Private colleges contribute \$5.8 billion per year to the Australian economy while supporting almost 100,000 students in Higher Education and 2.2 million out of the total of 3.9 million Australian students in vocational education and training each year. International education contributes a further \$20 billion to our economy. Around 90 per cent of international vocational students study with private providers, further evidence of their quality.

Importantly, private colleges employ almost 100,000 people right across the length and breadth of this country, including places like the Illawarra.

"As the industry peak body representing private training colleges, we hold our members to the highest standards of quality training," Mr Camm said.

"Australia needs a strong, industry responsive training system that supports good quality providers regardless of whether they are public or private."

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