



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **ACPET welcomes role in strengthening Victoria's VET sector**

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) welcomes the announcement by the Victorian government of the establishment of the *Apprenticeships and Traineeships Taskforce*.

ACEPT CEO Rod Camm said he welcomed the opportunity to participate on the taskforce which will work to identify challenges and opportunities to lift the number of apprenticeships and traineeships.

"it's important to identify any barriers to the uptake of apprenticeships in Victoria and I thank Minister Tierney for her leadership on this important matter" Mr Camm said.

"We know that apprenticeship and traineeship commencements are at near two-decade lows."

"We need to invest more in vocational training and skills and to make it as easy as possible for young people to get the skills they need to participate in our workforce."

The *Apprenticeships and Traineeships Taskforce* will be chaired by Victorian Skills Commissioner, Mr Neil Coulson and will:

- consider the current barriers and potential opportunities relating to the uptake of apprenticeships and traineeships across industries in Victoria
- determine whether issues raised are industry specific or broader systemic issues
- seek specific experiences of individual apprentices, employers and training providers, and
- determine actions that could be put in place to address the issues raised.

"This is a positive step to address the declining numbers of apprentices, and a skills shortage in key industries. Our Industry is committed to working with Government to improve the outcomes from vocational education and training and appreciates the opportunity to be involved."

"We must however do more; which means all levels of government working together to properly fund and build a strong VET sector."

"I also welcome the support of the Victorian government in calling for a renewal of the National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform which will expire on 30 June this year."

"If the agreement isn't renewed it will leave a funding gap of \$1.75 billion."

“If we are serious about getting young people into the workforce then we can’t stand idly by while billions of dollars are cut from Australia’s VET sector.”

**ENDS.**

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