



MEDIA RELEASE

24 August 2017

Assistant Minister Andrews announces VET Student Loans second round

Delegates attending the 2017 ACPET National Conference which opened today in Brisbane, heard exclusively from the Hon. Karen Andrews MP, Federal Assistant Minister for Training and Skills that the second round of applications for the VET Student Loans scheme would open on Wednesday, 30 August.

ACPET CEO Rod Camm thanked Assistant Minister Andrews for her great speech as well as the exclusive news that the second round of applications for the VET Student Loans scheme will open on 30th August.

“It was very welcome to hear the Assistant Minister speak about her openness and flexibility to work with industry and the state governments on the implementation of the Skilling Australians Fund.” Mr Camm said.

Ms Andrews noted that Australia will need an additional 300,000 apprentices and trainees by 2020.

“As result of our discussion within government about how to achieve this target, we announced our \$1.5 billion Skilling Australians Fund,” said Ms Andrews,” said Ms Andrews.

“This fund is about how we’re going to create the trained workers we need for the future.

“The 300,000 additional apprentices and trainees will be made up of 50,000 pre-apprenticeships; 20,000 higher apprenticeships at the diploma level; and 230,000 at the Certificate III & IV level.

Mr Camm noted the Assistant Minister’s determination to meet the forecast need and was encouraged about details of how industry can work with government to utilise the new fund.

The Assistant Minister also outlined that the focus of the Skilling Australians Fund will be project based, with states and territories requiring to propose projects that will meet the target in particular in industries such as hospitality, tourism and disability services.

“I urge our members to take up the Assistant Ministers request that we work with our respective states and territory governments to put together ideas about projects that could work in each jurisdiction,” said Mr Camm.

Ms. Andrews said that the focus of these projects needs to be how many people will be qualified at the end, what the cost is, if it’s in a priority/growth area, and importantly is there industry support?

If you don’t want to miss out on this unique gathering of political and industry representatives, 2017 APIEF & ACPET National Conference continues tomorrow and will hear from Hon. Yvette D’Ath MP, Qld Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Training and Skills.

Ends.

Media Contact: SAS Group on (07) 3221 9222