

25 June 2014

ACPET welcomes reforms to vocational education and training announced today

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) has welcomed reforms to the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector, outlined today by the Minister for Industry, Ian Macfarlane, at a National Skills Summit co-hosted with the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI).

ACPET chief executive, Claire Field, said Minister MacFarlane's genuine and consultative approach to reforming the sector was refreshing. She added that delegates who attended the forum were pleased by his commitment to getting on with the tough job of long overdue reforms.

In what was his first keynote speech to the VET sector, Minister MacFarlane said he was determined to reduce complexity and see the national regulator focus on removing red tape for high performing providers and instead targeting its efforts towards poor performing providers.

"Minister MacFarlane is clearly focused on building a less complex, more responsive training sector that is focused on improving the employment prospects of graduates. Those are exactly the right goals for these reforms and we commend the Minister for the vision he has outlined today," Ms Field said.

"The draft standards for VET regulation are a good start toward achieving the objectives of these reforms, and ACPET looks forward to continued consultation to help get those standards finalised and implemented.

"Finally, we welcome the release of the review of the Australian Skills and Quality Authority (ASQA) and the Minister's announcement that ASQA fees would not rise in the short term. We hope these measures will help to ensure the regulatory body is undertaking targeted and effective work without increasing the compliance burden on training providers."

The inaugural National Skills Summit was a joint initiative of ACPET and ACCI, which brought together private tertiary educators and employers to discuss reforms that will shape the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector in the years ahead.

A full program for the one-day Summit can be viewed [here](#).

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