

MEDIA RELEASE

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ACPET affirms confidence in Smart and Skilled

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) CEO Rod Camm today expressed ACPET's support of programs that facilitate student choice, including NSW Department of Industry's *Smart and Skilled* vocational education and training (VET) program.

Responding to media coverage of terminated Smart and Skilled training contracts, Mr Camm emphasised that student choice remained a critical principle in VET and was fundamental to building a quality sector.

"Independent providers already deliver up to three quarters of enrolments in the sector and achieve student satisfaction rates well above 80%. In terms of student choice, the industry has worked with the Department in NSW to validate its partnerships with training providers and is committed to building the standards of the industry, by both recognising good providers and removing those who can't meet the standards. ACPET supports the cancellation of contracts with providers whose practices are proven to be unworthy of government subsidy." Mr Camm said

Mr Camm questioned the simplistic approach of linking the problem as being synonymous with privately delivered training. "ACPET recognises that a small number of providers have let students down, but as an industry has significantly escalated the requirements for ACPET membership to drive the lifting of the standards across the industry".

"We will only represent those independent providers willing to uphold and be held accountable to Codes of Ethics and Practice above and beyond regulator and government standards."

"When choosing a provider, we encourage all students and businesses to ensure that the RTO or college is an ACPET member. This includes for Smart and Skilled training, where not all contracted private providers are ACPET members".

ACPET will continue to build standards and in time will ensure this separates the ethical providers from the rest. The government's [Statement of Expectations for Smart and Skilled Providers](#) details that providers are to "maintain active membership of a provider industry association", and this is seen as the first step towards protecting students.

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