

Media Release — PM’s VET review welcomed by the independent sector

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For Immediate Release

The review of the vocational education and training (VET) sector announced by the Prime Minister offers a once in a generation change to provide students and business with the skills required for a changing labour market. That’s the view of the Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET), the peak body representing the independent tertiary education sector.

“ACPET has been a strong advocate for a review of this nature and we applaud the Prime Minister’s commitment to make much needed transformational change” said Troy Williams, ACPET Chief Executive Officer.

ACPET believes that the right changes will strengthen the role of independent providers and enable them to offer the courses that will be needed to skill Australia’s workforce for the jobs of tomorrow.

“ACPET has been of the view for some time that a review of the sector is required to ensure that student and business needs are being met in an efficient and effective way. We’re pleased that the Australian Government has responded to ACPET’s call for action,” Mr Williams said.

Throughout the review, ACPET will work with the independent sector, particularly small providers of niche skills, to communicate to the Australian Government the following six key reform priorities:

- 1) An Australian Education sector, which is world class, offering choice, innovation and creative opportunity to students nationally and internationally;
- 2) An integrated seamless tertiary education sector suitable for lifelong learning whilst delivering skills and education in a new digital economy;
- 3) Australian education, which is internationally regarded, because it learns from the past, but focuses on a future for Australian students, for Australian jobs and Australian business and industry;
- 4) A mix of independent and public education, where there is fair competition to offer the best choices and the best outcomes to Australian and international students;
- 5) A regulatory system, which protects students and the educational sector, but offers continuous improvement and innovation. Excessive process regulation will restrict Australian innovation and creativity; and
- 6) Planning for education and assessment of quality must be based on sound objective data and that data must be generated quickly and assessed, as it comes to land to ensure Australia maintains its place in a digital economy.

The review will be led by Steven Joyce, the former New Zealand Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment, and Minister of Finance.

“Steven Joyce has demonstrated his ability to drive change in the education space, he was instrumental in the reforms to the apprenticeship and industry training system in New Zealand. ACPET welcomes his appointment and believe his experience will hold him in good stead to lead the review” Mr Williams said.

ACPET's membership looks forward to working with Mr Joyce and on framing the change that will deliver the outcomes required by students and business to support a growing economy.

Media contact: Lucy Scott 0411 169 612