

Media Release

Senate's Recommendations To Cut Private Education Red-tape Welcomed

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For Immediate Release

Recommendations arising from the Senate Committee on Red Tape's inquiry into the effect of red-tape on private education have been welcomed by the Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET).

The first recommendation set out in the Senate Committee's report is that the Australian Government, through the Council of Australian Governments, initiate a review of Commonwealth and state-based regulation affecting the private education sector, to identify opportunities for regulation and red-tape reduction.

"ACPET endorses this recommendation. Australia's independent tertiary education sector plays an important role in ensuring the diverse needs of students and business can be met. Quality providers welcome government oversight; however, the current regulatory framework is duplicative and overly burdensome which does not support the growth that will foster the innovation that drives quality and innovation in the sector," said Troy Williams, ACPET Chief Executive Officer.

The Senate Committee's interim report reviewing the effect of red-tape on independent education providers concluded that despite opportunities presented over the past five years, stakeholders in the sector cannot discern any significant regulation or red-tape reductions.

"Other sectors of the economy have experienced meaningful reductions in regulatory compliance costs thanks to the Australian Governments red-tape reduction agenda; however, this hasn't been the experience of independent tertiary education providers. ACPET looks forward to working with stakeholders across the sector to develop a risk-based approach to regulation that reduces compliance costs and promotes quality," Mr Williams said.

ACPET highlights an important issue raised in the report, this being that regulators must do more to strengthen engagement with providers and to incorporate their knowledge, experience and expertise into the regulatory environment.

"A key role for ACPET is to build the bridge between the independent tertiary education sector and regulators. Students, business and government have a shared interest in ensuring independent tertiary providers are able to innovate and deliver the outcomes that all require," Mr Williams said.

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