

Media Release

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ACPET questions the call of introducing tariff barriers to save TAFE

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) has questioned the call to action made by the Australian Education Union (AEU) earlier this week.

The constant calls to return the sector to one where students cannot choose their provider will block much needed reform of the Government owned provider and the sector more generally.

Decisions must be made on evidence as there seems to be a significant lack of it in the current rhetoric. ACPET recognises the importance of TAFE and the vital role it plays, however a well-managed market is best for students and industry.

Quality private providers play a crucial role in meeting the needs of students and industry” Rod Camm, ACPET CEO said

Private providers account for around 60 per cent of all enrolments in Australia. Competition has worked well in the sector since the mid 1980s so it is an astonishing call to now hope we can rebuild the walls and can go back to the past.

It is worth noting that private providers deliver the majority of Certificate III and Certificate IV training in Australia and it’s in many of the key growing human services sectors.

Importantly data from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research highlights that private providers enjoy graduate satisfaction rates on par with their public provider counterparts (87.0% vs 87.8%)

More importantly, these private provider graduates enjoy a higher employment rates after training (80.8% vs 73.1%)

“ACPET is concerned about the funding cuts in Victoria, as it is creating major challenges in building the skills needed for the future economy. This has nothing to do with whether a provider is government owned or not.” Mr Camm said

“I am intrigued that South Australia is used as an example. With the quality failures in TAFE South Australia, Government has been forced to reintroduce funds to allow students who don’t want to study at TAFE to study at private providers.”

“If there are problems it is the result of Government underspending its budget by \$500 million, which does require an explanation as it is adding to the demise of a once great sector.” Mr Camm said

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