

# Media Release

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## Budget Makes Investments To A Sustained Skilled Workforce

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For Immediate Release

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) represents the nation's independent tertiary education system that encompasses higher education, vocational education and training sectors. ACPET has welcomed the significant investments in education and training that have been made in the 2019 Australian Government budget.

“The measures in the budget represent a significant step towards providing Australia with the skilled workforce needed to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century,” said Troy Williams speaking from parliament house shortly after the budget was delivered.

When reviewing the significant measures to support the vocational education and training (VET) sector, ACPET notes that these need to be viewed in the context of a system where around 60% of students choose to study with an independent provider.

“ACPET welcomes the Government's commitment to spend \$132.4 million over four years to establish the National Skills Commission, that will drive long term reforms to the VET sector to support the skilling and reskilling of Australians for the emerging opportunities in a growing economy. This funding also supports New Skills Organisations and the establishment of a National Careers Institute, that will develop the skills and provide career advice necessary for job seekers”, Mr Williams said.

“It is great news that there is a commitment of \$34.2 million over FY2019-20 to support the six signatory states and territories that have signed up the National Partnership Agreement, associated with the Skilling Australia Fund. This will boost apprenticeships and traineeships across the board”, Mr Williams said.

As the parliament considers the budget and heads towards the coming election, ACPET highlighted the contribution of independent tertiary education providers in delivering the skilled workforce required to support a growing economy.

“Compared to the public sector independent tertiary education providers have higher course completion rates and higher post-training employment outcomes. Importantly, the independent tertiary education system does this at a lower cost to the taxpayer. That's why we welcome many of the announcements in the budget, Mr Williams said.

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