

Media Release

Closure Of Prominent Training Provider Highlights Challenges In Sector

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For Immediate Release

The announcement this week that a prominent national independent tertiary education provider, BCA National Training Group Pty Ltd (BCA), will be closing its doors, highlights the impact that funding uncertainty and red-tape has on the sector. That's the view of the Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET), the peak body representing independent providers in the higher education plus vocational education and training sectors.

“Good providers across the independent tertiary education sector face a significant red-tape burden placed upon them by several regulators. Coupled with short-term decision making by government about funding priorities, the challenges before independent providers are real. Today we've learnt that these challenges will see a provider that has a strong track-record of delivering quality outcomes for students close its doors,” said Troy Williams, ACPET Chief Executive.

On 18 March 2019, BCA entered into liquidation, engaging the services of PKF Australia as their liquidator. BCA ceased teaching students on 19 March 2019. The former BCA Managing Director, Mr Bruce Callaghan, is an individual recognised across business and government for the leadership he provides in the sector. Mr Callaghan served as ACPET Board Chair until late 2018.

BCA has made an important contribution to exports through their international student enrolments and always placed a significant priority on working with disadvantaged groups, including indigenous people.

“ACPET, and the entire independent tertiary education sector, is stronger for Bruce's contribution, and we are saddened to see his college close. It's a testament to his integrity that he continues to work collaboratively with the liquidators to ensure that the business is wound-up in an orderly fashion,” Mr Williams said.

The liquidator is currently liaising with the sector's regulator, the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), and the Tuition Protection Service (TPS), as well as exploring opportunities with other Registered Training Organisations (RTO) to facilitate the transition of students to new providers as a matter of urgency.

ASQA provides information on what students should do when an RTO is placed into liquidation that is available online at:

www.asqa.gov.au/students/what-do-when-your-training-provider-closes

Ends.

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