

MEDIA RELEASE

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ACPET calls on the WA Government to reverse its decision on removing the payroll tax exemption for existing employee traineeships

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) CEO Rod Camm has once again called for the Western Australian Government to review its decision to scrap the payroll tax exemption for existing employees undertaking traineeships.

The decision made by the WA Government in November 2017, without any consultation with industry, significantly limits opportunities for existing workers to upgrade their skills and career or to achieve their job aspirations.

ACPET acknowledged a CCI WA policy paper, released this week after consulting with peak bodies, outlines many key concerns in relation to the development of skills for an emerging state economy that will be hampered if removal of the tax exemption proceeds. Employers need to be supported not hindered in their efforts to contribute to a diversifying economy by upskilling their workforce to meet the demands of a highly competitive and rapidly advancing digital era.

Traineeships have been in steep decline for over 5 years, at a time when workforce development is essential for growing the WA economy.

“Removal of the tax exemption will make it difficult for the WA economy to innovate and for new and globally competitive industries to emerge, Rod Camm said. “It creates a barrier for those trying to make their way in the world and for employers who want to grow and build the capacity of their workforce. Unfortunately, the proposed Grants Scheme, intended to address flaws in the training subsidies program, is likely to be a case of too little too late and may not bring the benefits required to meet the requirements of the economy.”

Rod Camm said, “Unskilled workers will lose the opportunity to advance themselves through an employer supported pathway, which also creates a barrier to businesses in upskilling their workforce.”

“The WA Government needs to reconsider their approach so that strategies to renew the economy and upskill the workforce are enhanced. A broader consideration of the Government’s skills development priorities would be a better approach.”

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