

MEDIA RELEASE

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Plan to boost apprenticeships welcomed

Private training providers support the Australian Labor Party's policy announcement to boost apprenticeship numbers if it wins the upcoming federal election.

Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) CEO Rod Camm said apprenticeships and traineeships were key elements in providing jobs and skills, particularly for young people.

"A combination of subdued economic circumstances and government training cuts have produced decade low levels of commencements which is reflected in the high unemployment levels amongst young job seekers," he said.

"Harnessing the government's infrastructure program to boost apprenticeships and traineeships is an important step in boosting opportunities for those seeking a trade career."

Mr Camm said it was also time for governments to put in place sustainable funding arrangements that supported skills development for Australia's job seekers and workforce.

"We've seen funding cuts that have reduced the opportunities for young people and others to get the job skills they need," he said.

"It's also important that governments maintain the commitment to a strong, vibrant contestable provider sector that gives students and employers the choice and flexibility to access the training that best meets their needs.

"We need to maintain and enhance the user choice arrangements that have enabled apprentices and trainees to choose their provider. That's what ACPET's *Student Choice Counts* campaign is all about."

ACPET also supports the proposed establishment of an Apprenticeship Advocate and Apprenticeship Connect portal.

"Measures that increase the information to potential apprentices and employers to make well informed decisions and identify opportunities is most welcome," Mr Camm said.

www.studentchoicecounts.com

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