

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Protecting TAFE cannot be the future for the VET sector**

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) has reiterated the need for a rational examination of what's required to address VET funding and governance issues and dismissed the calls to protect TAFE, claiming such a move would be self-serving and self-defeating.

ACPET CEO Rod Camm was responding to the New South Wales Opposition's claim that federal Labor's proposed VET review was required to protect TAFE in that state.

"What we really need is a VET sector that is best positioned to respond to the career aspirations of students and meet the needs of business and industry," Mr Camm said.

"The VET sector should not be about propping up TAFE or any group of providers. It has to be about getting the best outcome for school leavers and those who need to upgrade their skills. That means providing real choice and flexibility that responds to skill needs across the country."

"In the first 9 months of 2015 there were 1.36 million government-funded enrolments delivered by 1,889 providers across the country. TAFE delivered 63.6 per cent of this training. It's hard to see how TAFE needs protecting."

"Calls to protect TAFE don't seem to demonstrate much faith in the public provider's ability," said Mr Camm.

"If TAFE is delivering quality training that meets their skill needs, students and industry will choose them."

"And it's not correct to link the recent decline in apprenticeships and traineeships to the alleged woes in TAFE. These declines are across the country and reflect the state of the economy and the parlous state of government funding for the sector. It has gone backwards in recent years."

"That's why there is a need to sort out the governance and public funding so that students and industry can get the very best training possible," Mr Camm said.

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