

MEDIA RELEASE

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Independent providers support 'students first' approach

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) has indicated its strong support for measures that will assist students impacted by the failed VET FEE HELP program.

Responding to Fairfax Media reporting yesterday on the impact of the program on students, ACPET CEO Rod Camm said ACPET throughout the entire process was committed to putting students first. While it is imperative that the organisations and their directors that failed the sector were held to account, the first priority must be that where students did not receive training their VET FEE-HELP loans were recredited by the federal government.

"It's clear this poorly designed program allowed a large number of students to be exploited by a small number of rogue providers. It's important these students should not have to wear the costs of this flawed program."

Mr Camm reiterated, however, that the vast majority of providers, TAFE and independent providers did the very best for their students enrolled through VET FEE-HELP "ACPET is working with its members to help restore the trust of the community and students in the VET sector through initiatives like its member Industry Certification program."

"More broadly, students are very satisfied with the quality of training provided by TAFE and independent providers with national data from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research indicating satisfaction levels above 80 per cent. We need to ensure the VET FEE-HELP lessons are learnt and appropriate action taken so that this strong performance is not further undermined."

"We need a strong network of quality TAFE and independent providers to meet the diverse needs of students and industry."

Mr Camm said he looked forward to the release of the recommendations of the recent review of National VET Regulator Act and the opportunity to ensure that only quality providers have the privilege to train our young people and workforce. "ACPET would welcome moves that lift the standards for approval as a registered training organisation and actions that hold to account those who fail to deliver quality training. Some of the measures proposed for the financial services sector warrant consideration."

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