

Private training vital to workforce skills

The release of the report *Total VET students and courses 2014* has highlighted the vital role that private providers are playing in skilling Australia's workforce according to the Australian Council for Private Education and Training.

Responding to the release of the National Centre for Vocational Research (NCVER) report, ACPET CEO Rod Camm said he applauded the much anticipated release of the report, as it clearly demonstrated the genuine and important role of private providers in meeting the skill needs of students and industry. "Of the 3.9 million student enrolments in 2014, more than 2.2 million were with private providers- 57.6% of the total and more than double that of TAFE," Mr Camm said.

"This strong result is built on the diversity, flexibility and responsiveness of the 2,865 private providers that reported activity for the year. Students and industry are voting with their feet," Mr Camm said.

It also worth noting that 35% of VET delivery reported was fee-for-service. "For the first time we are seeing the important role in fee-for-service VET delivery and the important role that private providers are playing," Mr Camm said. "This activity has help boost the workforce VET participation rate from 11.2% for government-funded activity to 23.3% for total VET activity."

Mr Camm said that the higher subject completion rate for fee-for-service activity, compared to government funded activity, was also a strong endorsement of private provision. "The fee-for-service subject completion rate of 85.1% is testament to providers shaping training to the particular needs of their students."

"This report is an important reminder that the VET sector is achieving strong outcomes for industry and students. Rather than retreating from competition and diversity, we should be thinking about how to enhance quality, diversity and responsiveness so that the benefits of skills development can be maximised."

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