

# Media Release

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## **ACPET's New Canberra Office Strengthens Policy Advocacy Capacity**

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For Immediate Release

Ensuring that government creates an environment in which independent providers in the higher education and Vocational Education and Training (VET) sectors can provide students and business with quality outcomes is the major focus for the Canberra office of the Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET).

The opening of ACPET's Canberra office is a strategic move that signals a major investment in policy advocacy according to Troy Williams, ACPET's Chief Executive Officer.

"When we ask our members, what keeps them up at night the challenges in dealing with an increasingly complex regulatory burden tops the list. ACPET has long been an advocate for reducing the amount of red-tape that tertiary education providers face and the opening of our Canberra office reflects an increased focus in this activity," Mr Williams said.

Independent providers deliver around 60% of all VET student enrolments nationally, about 90% of international student VET enrolments and are growing higher education enrolments at over 10% per year, with student satisfaction rates equal to those of public sector TAFE colleges and universities.

"The role of independent providers in providing students and business with the skills needed to support Australia's growing economy isn't fully understood. The ACPET Canberra office will raise the profile of the sector and the importance of securing reforms to the regulatory environment that ensures quality, long-term funding security and initiatives to support education exports," Mr Williams said.

Leading the ACPET policy team is Mr Robert Wilson who joined the organisation this year. His expertise in education policy was developed with peak business organisations including Master Builders Australia, AgriFood Skills Australia and the Queensland Resources Council.

"Robert's experience will assist ACPET's endeavours to secure reforms to support quality independent providers in the higher education and VET sectors," Mr Williams said.

Policy advocacy at ACPET uses the experience of its members to work towards a regulatory framework for the VET sector that is based upon a risk management approach that ensures independent providers can deliver quality training outcomes while at the same time freeing business from an unnecessary regulatory burden.

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Media Contact:  
Lucy Scott, ACPET National Office  
m: 0411 169 612

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[www.acpet.edu.au](http://www.acpet.edu.au)

Australian Council for Private Education & Training Ltd  
ABN 63 054 953 758

National Office: PO Box 551, East Melbourne, VIC, 3002  
Government Affairs: GPO Box 450, Canberra, ACT, 2601  
t: 1800 875 474 e: [national.office@acpet.edu.au](mailto:national.office@acpet.edu.au)