

MEDIA RELEASE

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WorkReady program continues to disadvantage student and job seekers

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) CEO Rod Camm has again called for the South Australian Government to urgently review their WorkReady program that will see 90% of training subsidies allocated to the public provider.

The WorkReady program was launched on 1 April 2015 with 90% of funded places going to TAFE South Australia, meaning the principle of student and employer choice, to which all states agreed under the National Partnership Agreement for federal funding for subsidised training, has been ignored.

The ABS labour force data released yesterday shows that 8,400 jobs were lost in South Australia in the last month alone, compared to the rest of Australia (-5100), not including the recent job losses at Alinta and Santos.

“It is clear that the South Australian Government is mismanaging valuable federal funds, which are sorely needed at this time to develop a skilled state workforce that is able to innovate and support South Australia in working its way out of troubled times,” ACPET CEO Rodd Camm said.

TAFE South Australia does not have the capacity to provide the level of training for which the SA government has allocated funding and therefore has to subcontract to private RTOs to fill their quota.

“The fees are up to 3 times more than what is charged by the RTOs, which means far less places are subsidised for the unemployed who are desperately seeking to retain or up-skill their qualifications- this is an absolute outrage,” he said.

“With the unemployment rate running at a 15 year high of 8.2 percent, it is imperative, in times of desperation that the South Australian Government consider the impact of funding decisions on jobseekers.”

“Unemployed South Australians need a choice of diverse providers who offer quality, personalised education and support.”

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