

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015

### **Private training peak body backs changes to student loan scheme**

The peak body for the private education and training sector has welcomed today's announcement by Assistant Minister for Education and Training Simon Birmingham to strengthen the regulations governing the VET FEE-HELP student loan program in the interests of students.

Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) CEO Rod Camm said the suite of changes - which include banning the use of inducements or incentives, setting minimum units of study for courses and measures that make it easier for the government to cancel student debts if new guidelines are breached – had the backing of quality providers.

“As the peak body for quality private training providers, we fully support these measures that work to protect the interests of students from exploitation from a small number of training providers who have tarnished the reputation of the VET sector,” Mr Camm said.

“These changes have the full support of all training providers committed to quality, integrity and student welfare.”

Mr Camm said ACPET will be joined by Assistant Minister Birmingham to launch its new Code of Ethics for Members and Code of Practice for the Engagement of Education Agents in Melbourne tomorrow, providing another layer of transparency and accountability to its members in the higher education and VET sectors.

“The standards set out in the new Codes are binding for our members so that the community can trust that if they study with an ACPET member, they are studying with a high quality and accountable provider.”

He said the guidelines in the Codes complemented the changes outlined by the Government today.

**For interviews or copies of ACPET's new Codes contact:**

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