

MEDIA RELEASE

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Non university Higher Ed important part of the mix

Figures released yesterday show that students are increasingly choosing private non-university higher education providers for their tertiary education.

The Department of Education and Training yesterday released statistics that showed an increase of 9.9 per cent in non-university higher education enrolments in 2015 compared to 2014.

Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) Rod Camm said these figures compared favourably with overall higher education enrolments increase of 2.1 per cent over the same period.

“These figures again highlight that private providers are an increasingly important part of the mix of tertiary education options available for our students,” he said.

There were 120,417 students enrolled in 101 institutions classified as Private Universities and Non-University Higher Education Institutions across Australia in 2015.

“Increases in enrolment numbers are supported by figures also released by the Department’s 2015 Student Experience Survey that indicated 78 per cent of students of non-university higher education providers were satisfied with the quality of their entire educational experience.”

However, Mr Camm said students of non-university providers were unfairly penalised by a 25 per cent student loan fee that was not applied to other students.

“The 25 per cent student loan fee incurred by students enrolled at the non- public universities clearly needs to be addressed,” he said.

“There are no grounds to financially penalise students simply because of their choice of provider.

“Australia needs a higher education system and funding model that supports innovation, equitable access and choice so that students, and industry, can select the provider that best meets their needs.”

Ends.

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