



**September 23, 2016**

## **ACPET welcomes Productivity Commission findings on VET FEE-HELP**

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) has endorsed the Productivity Commission's comments in relation to the roll-out of VET FEE-HELP, saying the scheme needs strong government stewardship and informed consumers.

The Commission has issued its Preliminary Findings Report into *Introducing Competition and Informed Used Choice into Human Services: Identifying Sectors for Reform*.

It examines a range of government service delivery areas, and the community's expectation that government-funded services will meet a certain standard.

ACPET CEO Rod Camm said he was supportive of government measures to ensure only the very best providers deliver training, as well as to help consumers of training services to become better informed about their choices.

"The report highlights the importance of Government stewardship in supporting competition and user choice," Mr Camm said.

"It goes on to highlight VET FEE-HELP as an example of where a lack of stewardship coupled with insufficiently informed students led to a proliferation of lower-standard courses.

"For ACPET, this confirms the importance of governments ensuring students are adequately informed, and the private training sector is strongly monitored with action is taken to remove poor performers.

"This report also underpins the importance of choice. Rather than backing away from supporting private education, governments should aim to foster quality training through competition and highly informed consumers.

"Australia has the potential to have a world-leading training and education system, combining private and government-funded providers. The critical question is not the ownership structure of the training provider, but rather setting and enforcing the highest possible standards.

"In well-managed markets quality private providers are outperforming the rest, so this report signals it is time to move forward and to not listen to arguments about reverting back to a by-gone era of protection."

[ENDS]

**Rod Camm is available for interview. Please phone the SAS Group on 07 3221 9222, or directly on 0409 484 051.**