



MEDIA RELEASE

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Liberals' apprentice and trainee incentive a positive step

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) has welcomed the WA Liberals' commitment to create 15,000 new apprenticeships and traineeships through an incentive scheme.

ACPET CEO Rod Camm said ACPET welcomed any program that encouraged the state's employers to take on more apprentices and trainees and address the youth unemployment rate.

"Apprentice and trainee numbers in WA have been in freefall recently and this is a positive step to address the decline," he said.

Only employers of apprentices and trainees in the building and construction industry are currently eligible for incentives.

"The WA economy, its business and industry, more than ever, will require a highly skilled workforce that is able to respond to an increasingly global market and the growing pace of technological change and innovation," he said.

"We are pleased that these incentives will be available to small and medium sized businesses, helping more young people get a start they need across a range of industries."

However, Mr Camm said the decline in new apprentices and trainees was a complex issue faced by all states and territories.

"We need a national focus on this issue and we urge the incoming WA Government to drive the development of new national VET funding and governance arrangements with the Federal Government," he said.

"The existing National Partnership on Skills Reform expires in less than five months. There is a critical need for a new agreement that strongly supports apprenticeships and traineeships and other initiatives that deliver a highly skilled and innovative workforce and help WA realise its economic potential."

[ENDS]

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