

MEDIA RELEASE

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ACPET welcomes Senate inquiry recommendations to tighten VET FEE-HELP

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) has welcomed the direction of the key recommendations of the final report of the Senate inquiry into the operation, regulation and funding of Private Vocational Education and Training (VET) providers in Australia that was released yesterday.

Recommendations include tighter regulations of brokers, greater powers for the national regulator ASQA, and the establishment of a training sector Ombudsman.

“The inquiry report is dominated by political rhetoric and was motivated to ‘have a go’ at private providers and clearly that intent is evident in some of the unfortunate and unnecessary commentary throughout the report. It does not give due recognition to the high quality training that is provided by the overwhelming majority of private providers. That’s a real shame as the report contains a number of recommendations that ACPET supports and has been advocating,” said ACPET CEO Rod Camm.

ACPET has called for fixing the program design failings of the VET FEE-HELP program “ACPET supports the call for some clear price signals to be set for VET FEE-HELP. The growth in numbers and prices in some parts of the industry are contributing, in many cases, to poor outcomes for students, industry and the Government,” he said.

“The Government needs to use the funding levers available to quickly control risks, manage the growth of higher risk providers and demand real outcomes.”

ACPET also supported the call to regulate brokers and agents operating in the VET sector “We have seen appalling behavior by some brokers that have brought the sector into disrepute. It is time to bring them under control. Such action would complement the Code of Practice ACPET has introduced for its members who use agents and brokers.”

“While the Federal Government is to be congratulated for the action recently to tighten up on some of poor practices that were possible under VET FEE-HELP, further action still needs to be taken.”

“Its also pleasing to see the Senate report support ACPET’s call for a National Training Ombudsman, something ACPET has been seeking for more than a year. It is vital that action is taken to ensure we have a high quality and skilled industry to meet the demanding needs of the future.”

ENDS

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