

MEDIA RELEASE

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Conference comes at critical time for industry

Emerging from a turbulent 18 months, Australia's private education and training providers will debate the future of their industry when they meet in August.

Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) CEO Rod Camm said the structure of the industry, innovation and contestability will all be up for discussion at ACPET's national conference in August.

"Private higher education and training providers are facing the most significant industry reform in 20 years," Mr Camm said.

"Proposed policy reforms could wind back 20 years of contestability in the higher education and training markets at a time when the rate of workforce change is accelerating.

"Now, more than ever, we need to ensure we are building a higher education and training sector that can innovate and respond to the technologies shaping our workforce."

ACPET's national conference, representing almost 1,200 members in Higher Education, Vocational Education, English language and foundation courses, is the largest gathering of private and not-for-profit educators and trainers in Australia.

"It's vital that our members and stakeholders attend the conference and participate in discussion with politicians and industry leaders that will shape the future of our industry," Mr Camm said.

ACPET's National Conference and Asia Pacific International Education Forum (APIEF), supported by the Tasmanian Government, will be held in Hobart on 24 – 26 August and features Professor Ian Harper, Chair of the Competition Policy Review, Dr Subho Banerjee Deputy Secretary, Skills and Training DET, Andrew Norton from the Grattan Institute, Professor Peter Noonan from LH Martin Institute and Jonathan Chew of the Nous Group. Todd Russell, survivor of the Beaconsfield mine disaster, will address the conference on Drawing Strength from Adversity.

Visit the ACPET website <http://www.acpet.edu.au/about/conference/2016/> for details. Early bird registrations close 30 June.

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