



Business call for VET funding supported

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) has welcomed the call by key industry groups for all governments to re-commit to skill sector funding and reform.

ACPET CEO Rod Camm said ACPET welcomed the release of a paper by the Business Council of Australia, Australian Industry Group and Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry calling on the state, territory and federal governments to maintain funding for vocational education and training.

This comes after several state governments called for the need to reach a national agreement that secures funding beyond this year.

The current National Partnership Agreement for Skills Reform that provides \$1.75 billion over 5 years ceases in June this year.

“ACPET welcomes industry’s call for governments to commit to maintaining funding for the VET sector. We are witnessing a decline in funding for a sector that is vital to ensuring Australia has the workforce skills to underpin business and economic growth”.

“Government funded enrolments dropped 10% from 2014 to 2015 alone. Apprenticeship and traineeship numbers are at near two-decade lows.” Mr Camm said.

“Apprenticeships and traineeships provide real opportunities for our young people and other job seekers to get a real job and build their skills. It should be priority for all governments - particularly at a time when youth unemployment is so high.”

Mr Camm said lifting enrolments must be an immediate priority.

“A new agreement must have a clear focus on getting more young people and others into training that meets the needs of industry and students.”

“We also need the state, territory and federal governments to sit down and sort out governance and funding for the longer term.

“We can’t hope to plan and build the skills of our workforce and industry to be globally competitive with the current dysfunctional arrangements where funding is chopping and changing every year” Mr Camm said.

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