

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Senate inquiry must focus on efficiency and quality of all VET providers**

The head of the national peak body for private tertiary education providers Rod Camm has welcomed the announcement of a Senate inquiry into the nation's vocational education and training (VET) sector but cautioned against linking the outcomes to the higher education reforms.

"This inquiry will provide an opportunity to refocus recent debate on what matters, which is ensuring our skills training system – public, private and not-for-profit – delivers the best outcomes for students, employers and the national interest," the Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) chief executive said.

"The attention must be on how to ensure quality educational outcomes and student support across the system, not whether the institution is public or private."

Mr Camm said the private sector had grown to around 4,500 private providers that met the demand of individuals, industry and governments.

"Student choice is the key element in a quality system," he said. "In all contestable markets across Australia, students are overwhelmingly selecting private providers and are indicating high levels of satisfaction with that choice," he said.

"The inquiry cannot just look at a narrow range of issues, but needs to consider the role of the states and territories and the design of the fund sources now in the sector," he said.

"Nor should it fail to apply the same level of scrutiny to the quality and educational outcomes of the public system. All registered training organisations are responsible for the sector's reputation."

Mr Camm said delivering student choice, supported by high quality standards and a strong regulatory regime, was the best way to ensure Australia had the highest quality VET system.

"We welcome any forum that shines a light on unscrupulous behaviour or sub-standard training because poor providers undermine the integrity of the entire system."

"Let's make sure all the facts are on the table so that this inquiry can deliver solid recommendations that improve the sector for all participants."

Mr Camm said ACPET had already committed to ensuring its own house was in order with the development of a draft member Code of Practice and Code of Ethics. The new code will include requirements on the management of Agents and Brokers.

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