

MEDIA RELEASE

17 June 2016

Private training essential to Australia's skill development future

The training choice of 2.2 million Australian students is at risk from outdated and ill-informed rhetoric from the Greens.

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) CEO Rod Camm said private training providers were an absolutely essential component of Australia's training sector and the Green's policy to stop all government funding to private providers posed enormous risk.

"The Australian training sector would collapse if private training providers were removed from the sector," he said.

"Not only would it strip student choice but also threaten the jobs of thousands of employees and hundreds of businesses across Australia."

A report released on 15 June by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) found that 2.2 million of Australia's 3.9 million vocational training students chose to study with private providers.

Of Australia's 4,601 training organisations, 2,864 were private training providers compared to 57 TAFEs.

"Not only do private providers deliver the majority of training in this country, they are the preferred choice of 57 per cent of Australia's training students and deliver strong outcomes," Mr Camm said.

"The NCVER report found there were almost twice as many completions at certificate levels III and IV by students who train with private training providers when compared with those who train at TAFE providers."

Most importantly, Mr Camm said, student satisfaction with private training providers was also very high.

"More than 78 per cent of private training graduates are employed after achieving their VET qualifications and overall student satisfaction with their training is in excess of 80 per cent," he said.

Mr Camm said ACPET was committed to ensuring that only high quality providers were able to deliver training to Australian students.

"There is no doubt that we have seen a small number of providers who acted highly unethically and took advantage of the system but strong action was taken by the Government to ensure these practices are never repeated," he said.

"The past actions of a few unscrupulous providers should not jeopardise the future of training in this country or the ability of millions of students to choose the training provider that best suits their needs."

www.studentchoicecounts.com

ENDS

For further information: SAS Group 0467 792 013