



MEDIA RELEASE

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Time is running out to fund skills and training

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) has today written to state and territory governments urging them and the federal government to act before the current national partnership agreement on skills expires.

ACPET CEO Rod Camm has welcomed recent calls by several state and territory governments as well as business and industry peak groups to maintain funding for the vocational education and training sector.

“ACPET believes that in order to retain a skills sector that is able to meet the needs of students and industry a new National Partnership Agreement is required.”

“With less than three months to go before the current agreement expires, it’s critical that governments of all levels and all stripes stop playing politics and provide certainty to students and the industry” Mr Camm said.

The current National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform that provides \$1.75 billion over 5 years expires on 30 June this year.

Nationally, government funded enrolments dropped 10% from 2014 to 2015 alone. Apprenticeship and traineeship commencements are at near two-decade lows.

“At a time when the sector is already under pressure, the removal of these funds would have a major impact” he said.

“This should be a high priority issue for all governments. It is about jobs, addressing high youth unemployment and equipping our workforce with the skills needed to compete in the economy of the future.”

“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.”

“We need a new agreement that provides funding certainty while ensuring the sector is strong, protects students and delivers the skills for our economy.”

Ends.

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