

Media Release —

## Small Vocational Education & Training Providers In The Spotlight

— 14 January 2020  
For Immediate Release

The role of small independent vocational education and training (VET) sector providers is being celebrated by the Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia (ITECA), the peak body representing independent providers in the higher education, vocational education, training and skills sectors.

“When many think of vocational education and training it’s not unexpected that their minds turn to large providers with big campuses with thousands of students. However, this overlooks the substantial contribution of small independent providers,” said Troy Williams, ITECA Chief Executive.

Data published by the National Centre for Vocational Education and Research (NCVER) examined small providers with less than one hundred students that have been in operation for three years or more. According to ITECA, this data has made a substantial contribution to the debate about the strong role that independent providers play in delivering students and their employers with the quality outcomes they are looking for.

Key insights into small independent providers and their contribution include:

- Around 19,000 students are supported by small providers;
- Some 33% of qualifications issued by small providers are at diploma level or higher;
- The Diploma of Access Consulting and the Certificate III in Rail Customer Service are only delivered by small providers;
- The median number of students with small providers is 31, which allows them to provide focused training and support.

“Small independent providers excel at providing qualifications in specialist areas often overlooked by larger providers, adding to the breadth of support that Australia’s independent tertiary education system provides to business looking for skilled workers,” Mr Williams said.

Independent providers support more than 70% of the 4.1 million students undertaking a VET program, including 58% of students undertaking a VET Diploma, 64% of students undertaking a Certificate IV and 58% of students undertaking a Certificate III.

Ends.

Media Contact:  
Michellé Mabile – ITECA Communications Director  
e: [media@iteca.edu.au](mailto:media@iteca.edu.au) m: 0436 522 189  
[ITECA Ref: N17.2.3]