

## Media Release —

### **ACT Government Slashes Funding to Vocational Education & Training**

— 20 January 2020  
For Immediate Release

The Australian Capital Territory faces a potential long-term skills shortage following significant cuts to funding for students across a range of qualifications. That's the conclusion of the Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia (ITECA), the peak body representing independent providers in the higher education, vocational education, training and skills sectors.

"These changes came as a surprise to quality vocational education and training providers across the Territory. There had been no consultation on the changes, with them being announced one day and coming into force the very next day," said Troy Williams, ITECA Chief Executive.

Information released by Skills Canberra shows that across the board, the ACT Government has slashed funding for students by 30% to 50% in key areas such as early childhood education, digital media and community services. Support funding for some students in building and construction disciplines has been cut altogether.

"In an environment in which many employers across the Territory are struggling to find skilled workers, it is stunning that the ACT Government has made such significant reductions to the support provided to students looking to vocational education and training to gain new skills," Mr Williams said.

The cuts made by the ACT Government will also affect the long-term viability of the independent vocational education and training sector.

"The Territory's independent vocational education and training sector has a strong reputation for providing students and their employers with quality outcomes. The cuts to student support announced by the ACT Government makes it difficult for these providers to survive over the long-term," Mr Williams said.

ITECA has raised the concerns of its members with the ACT Government. An emergency meeting of independent providers from across the Territory is being convened to consider how to best support students in the context of the cuts.

"There's a great deal of concern about how the sector will support students who are looking forward to embarking on studies that will help them along in their career. ITECA members are considering the best way forward in the context of the ACT Government's cuts to funding that support students," Mr Williams said.

For a full analysis on the ACT Government's cuts to vocational education and training contact the ITECA Australian Capital Territory branch via email at [act@iteca.edu.au](mailto:act@iteca.edu.au) or telephone on 1300 421 017.

Ends.

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

[ITECA Ref: N4.3.51]