

Media Release —

Independent Providers Do The Heavy Lifting In Vocational Education

— 5 June 2019
For Immediate Release

A new report shows it's the independent tertiary education system that does the heavy lifting when it comes to the training and reskilling of the Australian workforce. It's published by the Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia (ITECA), the peak body representing independent providers in the higher education, vocational education and training sectors.

The *2019 ITECA State Of The Sector Report* shows that around seventy percent of those enrolled in a Vocational Education and Training (VET) course were enrolled with an independent provider or other non-government provider types.

"This is pioneering research that shows when it comes to providing the workforce with the education, training and reskilling needed to support a growing economy, it's independent providers that play the lead role," said Troy Williams, ITECA Chief Executive.

When it comes to sectorial coverage, the ITECA membership includes independent VET providers, community education providers and enterprise providers. Collectively these provider types support more than three million students.

Provider Type —	Student No.
▪ Independent VET provider	2,549,380
▪ TAFE institute	680,181
▪ Attending more than one provider type	407,500
▪ Community education provider	384,259
▪ School	82,550
▪ Enterprise provider	75,523
▪ University	56,165

The independent VET sector delivers the majority of higher-level qualifications of Certificate III (58 per cent); Certificate IV (66 per cent); Diploma and above (61 per cent) and half of all qualifications delivered at the Certificate I and II level (50 per cent).

Importantly the independent sector also delivers a range of short courses, accredited skill sets and single subject training. These are vital to allowing the existing workforce to top-up their skills to adapt to new technology.

"Often referred to as micro-credentialing, this type of delivery is highly flexible and specific to the needs of individuals and can often enable just the right amount of training, at just the right time, to support individuals to increase their capability, career prospects and productivity," Mr Williams said.

The *2019 ITECA State Of The Sector Report* will be released later this month and looks set to change the debate about funding of tertiary education in Australia.

"This data highlights the need for a fundamental rethink to how, as a nation, we fund vocational education and training. The research is clear. It's the independent vocational education and training sector that supports more students and achieves higher completion rates and does this at a lower cost to the taxpayer than public providers," Mr Williams said.

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