

Media Release —

ITECA Welcomes Expert Panel To Advise On Vocational Training Reforms

— 27 August 2019
For Immediate Release

The peak body representing independent providers in the higher education, vocational education, training and skills sectors, the Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia (ITECA), has welcomed the appointment of an expert advisory panel appointed by the Australian Government to provide independent strategic advice to the Government on key reforms to the vocational education and training system.

“ITECA has been actively engaged with the Australian Government as improvements to the nation’s vocational education and training system are progressed. Revitalisation of the system is a shared priority for ITECA and the Australian Government and in this context the appointment of the expert advisory panel is welcome,” said Troy Williams, ITECA Chief Executive.

The Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, Sen. Hon. Michaelia Cash, has announced that the Hon. Steven Joyce will chair the expert panel. He will be joined by Peter Noonan, Professor of Tertiary Education Policy at Victoria University’s Mitchell Institute, and Dr Vanessa Guthrie, a former Chair of the Minerals Council of Australia.

“There is a clear need to improve the vocational education and training system, to cut the red tape that independent providers face, and also to provide a level playing field so that public TAFE colleges and quality providers can compete equally for funding to support students. The Australian Government is actively considering reform in these areas and the broad direction of this is supported by ITECA,” Mr Williams said.

In terms of reforms to the vocational education and training sector, ITECA was a participant in consultations that produced the *Expert Review of Australia’s Vocational Education and Training System* authored by Mr Joyce.

“Independent providers support around 70% of students in the vocational education and training system, providing students and their employers with the quality outcomes they are looking for. We see the recommendations set out in the Joyce review as a positive step in the right direction. The challenge will come with the implementation of the Joyce review’s recommendations and in that context the appointment of the expert advisory panel is to be welcomed,” Mr Williams said.

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Media Contact:
Michellé Mabile, ITECA Director - Communications
e: media@iteca.edu.au t: 0436 522 189