

Media Release —

Independent Higher Education Providers To Receive New Provider Category

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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 *Review of Australia's Higher Education Provider Category Standards* by Emeritus Professor Peter Coaldrake AO released by Minister for Education, the Hon. Dan Tehan MP yesterday.

The Review includes the recommendation put forward by ITECA in 2018 that the current single category covering all 130+ higher education providers which are not universities, be split into two. A new category titled 'National Institute of Higher Education' will be created for the highest performing higher education providers which are not universities.

"This significant change based on ITECA's submission to the government is a win for independent higher education providers. The additional category supports and acknowledges those providers that are innovative and achieve additional requirements in higher education," said Mr Troy Williams, ITECA Chief Executive.

The additional category will make it easier for independent higher education providers to meet their registration requirements and innovate to grow their business and meet student, employer and industry needs.

The Review, first announced in 2017, involved direct consultation with ITECA. With the active support of independent higher education members, ITECA tendered a submission that was student-centric. It reflected the commitment of ITECA members to providing quality outcomes where individuals have access to learning opportunities and the capacity to select higher education providers who can deliver the education that meets their needs.

There are currently more than 130 independent providers in the higher education sector that collectively support more than 140,000 students.

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