

Media Release —

Focus On Life-long Learning In Alice Springs Education Declaration Welcomed

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For Immediate Release

The goal of equipping young people to have the confidence and capability to pursue learning throughout life, leading to enjoyable, fulfilling and productive employment as set out in the *Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration* is welcomed by the Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia (ITECA). ITECA is the peak body representing independent providers in the higher education, vocational education, training and skills sectors.

In its advocacy associated with the development of the successor to the *Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians*, ITECA was a strong proponent for a policy that would allow individuals to pursue education and training throughout their working lives.

“Technological change means that many of the jobs that exist today won’t exist tomorrow. To ensure that individuals are able to have secure and meaningful employment in such an environment, it’s important that a culture of life long learning be developed,” said Troy Williams, ITECA Chief Executive.

The *Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration* defines lifelong learners as people who are productive and informed users of technology, which is a vehicle for information gathering and sharing. They are able to adapt to emerging technologies into the future.

“It’s great that the Declaration places an emphasis on an individual’s ability to continually improve through formal and informal learning in further education, and training or employment, and acquire the skills to make informed decisions throughout their life,” said Mr Williams.

With the COAG Education Council signing-off on the *Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration* comes a commitment by government to work with the education community and in partnership with young Australians, their families and the broader community to achieve the educational goals for young Australians.

“ITECA looks forward to working with government at all levels to deliver the outcomes set out in the Declaration. Independent tertiary education providers are uniquely positioned to support people throughout their working lives acquire the knowledge and skills required to be successful. After all, the strength of the independent tertiary education system can be found in its ability to deliver students and their employers the quality outcomes they are looking for,” Mr Williams concluded.

ITECA represents independent providers in the higher education, vocational education, training and skills sectors. There are around 130 independent providers in the higher education sector that collectively support around 10% of the 1.6 million students in higher education. Independent providers support more than 70% of the 4.1 million students enrolled in vocational education and training programs across Australia.

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