

## Media Release —

### **ASQA Accepts Independent Sector's Plan To Set Aside Red-tape**

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For Immediate Release

In a move that will allow independent vocational education and training providers to focus on students rather than red-tape during the Covid-19 crisis, the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) has accepted key recommendations set out in the action plan developed 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.

The *COVID-19 Response – Backing Australia's Independent Tertiary Education Sector Action Plan* was developed by ITECA after extensive consultation with its members. It includes measures to set aside red-tape and provide some \$210 million in assistance to independent tertiary education providers.

“Over the past fortnight, ITECA has been engaged in high-level discussions with ASQA to progress recommendations in the plan. These will set aside red-tape in the immediate term, allowing independent providers in the vocational education and training sector to concentrate on supporting students,” said Mr Troy Williams, ITECA Chief Executive.

#### **ITECA Recommendations Adopted By The Regulator -**

- Extending some registration periods to relieve the pressure of upcoming renewal applications;
- Extending the transition periods for a further 90 qualifications;
- Postponing regulatory activities in consultation with providers;
- Continuing to update FAQs to support the decisions you are making about your operations;
- Enabling providers to place their registration ‘in hibernation’ where they are temporarily ceasing all operations.

“This response by ASQA represents a significant advocacy achievement by ITECA that supports our members. ITECA’s advocacy has been focussed on relieving the immediate and medium-term pressures faced by the independent vocational education and training sector,” Mr Williams said.

ITECA continues to work with the Australian Government and its state / territory counterparts to put in place measures that will support the independent tertiary education sector.

“ITECA thanks ASQA for its commitment to work with us to put in place arrangements that will allow independent tertiary education providers to continue offering students and their employers quality outcomes,” Mr Williams concluded.

Australia’s independent vocational education and training sector supports around 80% of the 4.1 million students undertaking a vocational education and training program.

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