

Media Release —

New Higher Education Undergraduate Certificate Announcement Welcomed

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For Immediate Release

The provision of a new suite of 58 short courses by higher education providers, made possible thanks to an Australian Government initiative, has been welcomed by the Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia (ITECA), the peak body representing independent providers in the higher education, vocational education, training and skills sectors.

The new Undergraduate Certificate courses were created as part of the Australian Government's response to the Covid-19 crisis. The 1,015 heavily subsidised places for the new Undergraduate Certificate courses will mostly be offered by independent higher education providers.

"ITECA welcomes this announcement that funds independent higher education providers to deliver short courses in key areas. It's timely support for the sector as they face challenges brought about by the Covid-19 crisis," Mr Williams said.

The courses will be offered by 18 higher education providers with a cost to students ranging from \$1,250 to \$2,500. The financial contribution of the Australian Government is \$7million.

"We're pleased that the Australian Government has made this investment that allows independent higher education providers to support students in key areas including healthcare, clinical psychology teaching, science, engineering, languages and information technology," Mr Williams said.

ITECA continues to work with the Australian Government on a suite of reforms that will assist independent higher education providers during the Covid-19 crisis.

"ITECA members enjoy a reputation as world-class independent higher education providers, and we're pleased to be working alongside the Australian Government to support them," Mr Williams said.

Independent providers support around 10% of the 1.5 million students in higher education.

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