

Media Release —

Prime Ministers Focus On Skills & Training Reform Welcomed

— 26 May 2020
For Immediate Release

News that the Prime Minister is to announce a major review of Australia’s skills and training funding arrangements 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.

“Funding for apprentices, trainees and others undertaking vocational education and training really does require reform. Current arrangements serve neither students nor taxpayers well,” said Troy Williams, ITECA Chief Executive.

Independent providers in the vocational education and training sector support more than 80% of the students undertaking a vocational education and training program according to the National Centre for Vocational Education and Training (NCVER), that’s around more than four times more than public TAFE colleges. ITECA says these independent providers face a bewildering array of funding programs as they try to support students.

“In the true tradition of the Australian Commonwealth, we have eight states and territories all funding vocational education and training in different ways. Rarely does a jurisdiction develop a funding arrangement that properly supports students and their employers,” Mr Williams said.

ITECA has been working with the Australian Government to progress reform of the vocational education and training system to ensure it can boost the reskilling of job seekers as they enter the workforce.

“As Australia emerges from the Covid-19 crisis, a major investment in skills will be required. We need a better funding arrangement that supports apprentices, trainees and others in training more effectively than the current confusing funding arrangements. Independent vocational education and training providers stand ready to do this,” Mr Williams said.

Ends.

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[ITECA Ref: N4.10.2F]

Prime Minister’s Press Club Address

After the Prime Minister’s address to the Press Club today, Mr Williams will be available for interviews and comment.

Please contact Mr Williams on 0400 599 934.