MEDIA RELEASE

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ELECTION 2013: TDA Releases two new Position Papers
Skills training and international education

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) today released two new position papers in the lead up to the 2013 Federal Election:

1. **Maintaining a commitment to skills funding and meeting Australia's skills shortages** highlights the critical state of our skilled workforce with declining apprenticeship and traineeship numbers and the overall decline in funding for skills training.

   TDA argues for the retention of incentives for employers of apprentices and trainees, a specific focus on the health, aged care, disability services and ICT sectors which face major skill shortages, and a renewed focus on literacy and numeracy skills.

   TDA calls for additional investment in providing technical and further education in regional and remote communities. TDA continues its advocacy for our TAFE higher education students to have access to Commonwealth funding support.

2. **TAFE Leadership in International Education: enhancing our partnerships across regions** emphasises the important role TAFE plays in the provision of education services across the globe.

   TDA calls on the Commonwealth to recognise and support this role by directly supporting offshore partnerships and establishing Skills Centres of Excellence in three Asian countries.

   TDA argues for policies which do not discriminate against TAFE institutes compared with universities, including streamlined visa processing, equivalent work rights and visa charges, and study abroad programs for our domestic students.

   Finally, TDA emphasises the importance of establishing a Ministerial Council on International Education as an essential means of coordinating the activities of multiple government departments at both State and Federal level.

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