COMMUNIQUE

NATIONAL BOARD MEETING, PERTH - 22 NOVEMBER 2013

The National Board of TAFE Directors Australia meeting in Perth, reviewed the Department of Immigration & Border Control’s decision to extend Streamlined Visa Processing (SVP) beyond universities.

‘TDA’ was informed by the Department that up to 22 vocational and TAFE Institutes had been invited to participate in SVP, although only Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) delivering higher education level courses or above were considered.

The TDA Board has expressed its dismay that several of our TAFEs with an outstanding track record in delivering high quality higher education to international students were excluded from the offer.

A most prominent inconsistency was showcased last Friday evening, 22nd November, when Box Hill Institute of TAFE was awarded the International Education Provider of the Year in the Australian Training Awards, yet was not included within the first-round offers of SVP.

The TDA Board noted the original offering of SVP to universities was based on two primary considerations; the quality of the institutions and the level of risk associated with student visa compliance. In several cases, the high risk rating was noted however the quality of services and support for international students and the integrity of the institutions were sufficient to enable them to opt-in to SVP.

Based on this precedent, the TDA Board resolved –

- Immediate recognition be granted to the quality of provision and support for international students offered by our state and territory government TAFE institutes
- That all eight TAFE institutes and state-wide TAFE systems which currently offer degree level courses should be invited to participate in SVP immediately.

The TDA Board seeks the earliest intervention of the Minister for Education, Hon. Christopher Pyne and Immigration Minister Hon. Scott Morrison, to overcome the ridiculous inconsistencies now shown by such discrepancy in Australian government standards.

The TDA Board will seek from the Ministers assurances that all TAFE Institutes offering degree level course or above should be eligible for SVP, and for further consideration, the extension of SVP to all TAFEs offering Diploma level vocational courses.

TAFE Directors Australia

Perth, 22 November 2013