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NATIONAL VET REGULATOR BILL PASSES SENATE

TAFE DIRECTORS AUSTRALIA SUPPORTS LEGISLATION, AND MINISTER'S PLEDGE TO REVIEW ALIGNMENT WITH TEQSA LEGISLATION

Today's historic passage of the National VET Regulator (NVR) Bill marks a milestone in both the management of skills and regulation of training for Australia.

TAFE Directors Australia supported the legislation following intervention by Senator the Hon. Chris Evans, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations, to hold a new round of consultations, and align the NVR legislation with TEQSA legislation -- likely with further amendments.

Senator Evans made special reference to TAFE Directors Australia in the Senate. He indicated that the Government would commit to consultation and further amendments in coming months, acknowledging the arguments by TDA for lifting standards of providers. He also supported the alignment of the NVR with planned TEQSA legislation for higher education.

In this case, Senator Evans pledged that the Government would engage in a new round of consultations with stakeholders during March and April.

Senator Evans told the Senate: "This consultation process would be aimed to also be an opportunity to seek agreement with stakeholders on the NVR's approach to risk management in the VET sector and the standards that would apply, noting these standards are endorsed by MCTEE, with the aim of aligning arrangements between the NVR and TEQSA."

TDA had continued with negotiations with Ministers, MPs and Senators through to the introduction of the NVR Bill, and had earlier made joint submissions with the Australian Education Union (AEU), and joined the AEU in a Senate Committee Hearing earlier this month.

Martin Riordan, Chief Executive Officer of TDA, said today that the review of the NVR Bill will be critical to ensuring there can be agreement reached on raising standards of Australian RTOs, and satisfy the Government's undertaking that the referral of powers from states and territories (except Vic and WA) would 'make a difference' to the quality of Australian training.

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