Commonwealth should join Victorian initiative to block funding to disreputable private training colleges

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) today called on the Minister for Vocational Education and Skills Luke Hartsuyker to bring forward additional emergency measures to stop rogue ‘for-profit’ private training colleges, and adopt, nationally, key principles on VET funding announced by the Victorian government.

On the eve of vocational education enrolments for 2016, the Victorian government has announced strict new contracts for all private college providers, designed to block millions of dollars in government and student funds flowing to high risk colleges.

Martin Riordan, Chief Executive of TDA, said the Victorian action should be adopted at a wider level, to more successfully crack down on public funding continuing to flow to for-profit, private vocational education providers.

“We have clear evidence of private colleges rorting the VET FEE-HELP student loans scheme, and the actions by Victoria need to be adopted nationally to close loopholes in the $9 billion a year federal, state and territory expenditure on vocational education.”

Mr Riordan said TDA had made detailed representations over several months to federal ministers Birmingham and Hartsuyker, seeking an overhaul of VET FEE-HELP student loans, and wider VET funding.

“There is a real need before New Year enrolments commence across the training system, to extend the tightening of conditions on VET payments, rather than adopting a one-size-fits-all approach, as has occurred in the past. This has caused hardship to quality providers such as TAFEs, and impacts industry confidence in skills investment.”

For further information

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