MEDIA RELEASE

GREATER BALANCE NEEDED IN TERTIARY FUNDING

Reaction to mid-year economic statement

22 October 2012

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) said today that the position of universities in comparison to TAFEs needed to be addressed by ministers and higher education authorities in the wake of the release of the federal government’s mid-year economic statement.

The Chief Executive Officer of TDA, Martin Riordan, responding to the $500 million freeze on university research funding, said any education cuts were short-sighted, especially in a knowledge-based economy and in the face of skills shortages.

“TAFE Directors have viewed with concern the unsustainable funding of universities, not only for research grants, but will full indexation and uncapped places, providing open-ended financial support over recent years.

“For these reasons, TAFE Directors argue that over the longer term, a review of uncapped places should be considered, especially given that a third of TAFE Institutes still have students unable to access Commonwealth Supported Places and HECS loans.

TDA will be seeking urgent talks with the Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Science and Research, Senator Evans, to discuss options for a review of the current uncapped places funding, with the aim of securing a more balanced approach to education funding.

For further information –

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