Media Release

17 October 2012

TAFE DIRECTORS SUPPORT NEED FOR FUNDING CERTAINTY

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) today expressed concern over the federal government’s freeze on key funding programs that are central to ongoing investment in tertiary education and training.

The Chief Executive Officer of TDA, Martin Riordan, said the vocational education and training (VET) sector had concerns that efforts by the Federal Government to achieve budget savings were causing uncertainty in many TAFE Institutes.

“The VET sector understands the need to maintain fiscal responsibility but there also needs to be recognition of the unpredictability that this creates, particularly on top of funding cuts at the state level,” Mr Riordan said.

He said that a recent freeze on funding for the Workplace English Language and Literacy (WELL) program had caused uncertainty and difficulty for institutes and enterprises involved in workplace training.

The upcoming Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) will shed light on the Commonwealth’s immediate spending commitments.

“In the current climate, maintaining a tight rein on spending is to be applauded, but must be done so by the Federal Government in a manner that does not give rise to haphazard decision making on some critical programs,” Mr Riordan said.

For further information:

Pam Caven
Director Policy and Stakeholder Engagement
0403 383 024
pcaven@tda.edu.au