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MEDIA RELEASE

TAFE Directors congratulate Abbott Ministry appointments for Education

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) today congratulated Hon. Christopher Pyne MP, on his appointment as Minister for Education in the inaugural Abbott Ministry, and Hon. Sussan Ley MP, as Assistant Minister for Education.

Christopher Pyne has continued his strong interest in the Education portfolio, and Sussan Ley has spoken at the last three TDA national conferences.

TDA especially welcomes Sussan Ley’s strong commitments in Opposition to Australia’s public provider (TAFE) network in further developing technical skills and vocational education and training.

Scott Ryan has been named Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education.

TDA will be seeking an early meeting with the Ministers in the new portfolio, after this week’s swearing in ceremony.

Mr Scott Morrison MP has been named Minister for Immigration and Border Protection. This is a key portfolio for international student visas, and Scott Morrison through the election period spoke in favour of non-university Higher Education providers including TAFE, accessing streamlined visas.

Honourable Andrew Robb AO MP has been named Minister for Trade and Investment, and with responsibility for widening jobs through free trade agreements. Andrew Robb was the previous skills minister under John Howard, and will take responsibility for Austrade, a key agency for international education.

Martin Riordan, Chief Executive Officer of TDA, said the continuity of representation by the Federal Coalition augers well, with key policies presented to the Opposition through the recent Federal Election.

TDA released policies across the technical and vocational education portfolio, and Sussan Ley complimented TDA on the clarity of messages during her Address to the recent TDA Confernece in Brisbane. (Refer policy statements -- www.tda.edu.au)

TAFE Directors Australia is the peak incorporated body representing Australia’s 61 TAFE Institutes, including five dual sector universities with TAFE divisions. The network is the largest and most diverse tertiary education sector in Australia with more than 1,300 campuses located across metropolitan, suburban, regional and remote locations.

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