MEDIA RELEASE

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RESPONSE TO QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT SKILLS AND TRAINING RECOMMENDATIONS

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) said today that the Queensland Government’s acceptance of 37 of the 40 recommendations of the Skills and Training Taskforce was an indication of the extent of the reform proposed for technical and further education in the state.

The Chief Executive of TDA, Martin Riordan said the reforms proposed for the TAFE system in Queensland were the most significant for several decades.

Today’s statement from the Minister for Education, Training and Employment, the Hon John-Paul Langbroek, is the latest in a series of measures from Commonwealth, state and territory governments, which agreed in April 2012, to introduce a National Entitlement of Training for school leavers and adult learners.

Mr Riordan stressed that, as part of the proposed set of reforms, the introduction of the entitlement system to Queensland must be underpinned by well-structured quality criteria and appropriate funding arrangements. TDA would not want to see Queensland go down Victoria’s path.

TDA made two detailed submissions to the Queensland Skills and Training Taskforce. TDA welcomes the acceptance of its major recommendations, including how TAFE Institutes will undergo governance change, manage staff and campuses, align their focus with the state’s economic priorities and skills needs, and help forge pathways from schools, to skills and higher education.

The TAFE infrastructure has been established across the campus sites of the 13 TAFE Institutes across Queensland, and extends deep into suburban, rural and regional communities.

However only on rare occasions have individual TAFEs had management capacity or the control to organise and design sites for targeted community and industry training needs.

TDA would want to be assured that any proposed closures of TAFE campuses and facilities would only be made with full consultation and agreement of the newly empowered TAFE institutes and their communities.

“Given many years of frustration at central control and less than targeted decisions taken on behalf of individual TAFE directors, we look forward to an era where decision making and autonomy is afforded to those in the TAFE network who are closest to industry,” Mr Riordan said.

Media contact: Bob Bowden 0412 753 298