



National Secretariat

Sydney Institute of TAFE NSW
Turner Hall , Ultimo College
Cnr Mary Ann and Harris Streets
Ultimo NSW 2007

Ph: 02 9217 3180

Fax: 02 9281 7335

Website: www.tda.edu.au

ABN: 39 070 265 734

Media Release

1 November 2011

TDA WELCOMES FUNDING CLARITY FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION DIPLOMA COURSES

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) today welcomed clarity by the Federal Government about its commitment to funding directed at vocational education diploma and advanced diploma courses in TAFE, rather than seeing universities move into vocational qualifications under alternate Federal funds.

The Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations, Senator the Hon. Chris Evans, made the announcement in Canberra today, following TDA advice that some thousands of students were increasingly being enrolled by universities into the same qualifications, yet registered as Higher Education courses, incurring increased and differential federal funding.

The Minister was very clear on the government's desire for "universities and VET providers to complement each other in the delivery of courses". This decision will also ensure that the industry-driven national VET framework is supported through this clarity of allocation of public funding.

Minister Evans announced that courses offered by public universities leading to qualifications below bachelor degree level will be subject to annual allocations, agreed between the Government and each university.

TDA canvassed major concerns about the practice when recently appearing before the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audits inquiry into National Funding Agreements, under Chair, Rob Oakeshott MP in Canberra on 16 September 2011.

Martin Riordan, CEO of TDA, said today that while these diploma, advanced diploma, and associate degree courses had comprised just 3% of total Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) funding, evidence of switching by universities to the VET diploma market was widespread and increasing.

He added: "If the funding was allowed to continue unabated, the Bradley attainment targets would have been seriously distorted."

For background on the TDA evidence to the Joint Committee, visit:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/hansard/joint/commttee/j307.pdf>

For further information: Martin Riordan (CEO, TDA) 0402 090 035