

Media Release

31 May 2011

TERTIARY EDUCATION MINISTER CHRIS EVANS APPROVES NEW CHAPTER FOR CONSUMER PROTECTION FOR AUSTRALIAN FEE-PAYING STUDENTS

TDA INTRODUCES CHOICE IN TUITION ASSURANCE SCHEME FOR TERTIARY PROVIDERS

TAFE Directors Australia has welcomed a new chapter for Australian Tuition Assurance, approved by Tertiary Education Minister, Senator the Hon. Chris Evans.

Martin Riordan, Chief Executive of TAFE Directors Australia, said the Ministerial approval allows 'TDA' to expand its tuition assurance scheme to enable membership from major Australian tertiary institutions – public and private higher education (HE) and vocational education and training (VET) providers.

The TDA Tuition Assurance Scheme will welcome significant institutional educational higher education and VET Providers, with QBE Insurance Australia insuring the expanded scheme.

Under Federal legislation, non-university higher education and VET institutions are required to register for certification for Tuition Assurance, and the Australian market has been a virtual monopoly with one private scheme approved for the wider HE and VET Australian education provider industry.

"TDA is pleased to have gained Federal support allowing for competition in the non-university marketplace," said Martin Riordan.

"TDA has been regularly approached by a wide range of HE and VET institutions asking for choice," he said.

He added: "This new 'TDA TAS Scheme' approval will support greater diversity in Australia for tertiary education – and new alignments between public and private non-universities -- envisaged by the Federal Government's reforms to higher and vocational education. TDA is the peak body for Australia's 59 TAFE Institutes, and we have responded to demand expressed from Australian educators to find options beyond the existing private TAS scheme."

TDA's current Tuition Assurance Scheme had previously been restricted to TAFE Institutes, and open to members of the Council of Private Higher Education (COPHE).

The new TDA TAS Scheme will be fully operational, and will apply from 1st July 2011.