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TAFE DIRECTORS WELCOMES OECD SKILLS REPORT

MOVING TO THE NEXT PASE OF TRAINING PACKAGES

TAFE Directors Australia has welcomed the release of the OECD skills review of Australia, *Learning for Jobs* (2008).

The *Learning for Jobs* OECD Report makes eight recommendations, seeking to lift workforce participation in training and skills – currently 12th ranking in the OECD. The OECD found Australia could improve training outreach to older workers, single parents, people with disabilities, and indigenous groups.

The OECD recommendations included a call for widespread streamlining across the Australian vocational education and training system including a recommendation to agree common principles for VET funding and provision. Other recommendations included an entitlement to a minimum qualification without charge, greater transparency for consumers choosing a VET provider, a revamp of training packages and suggestions aimed at encouraging greater industry participation within the VET workforce.

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) hosted a National Provider Forum, as a key part of the 4-member OECD panel visit to Australian earlier this year.

Martin Riordan, Chief Executive of TDA, said the OECD recommendations would be an important input to the Council of Australian Government (COAG) reference group on productivity and skills – due to review training in November 2008, and March 2009.

“Our TAFE Directors board meets in Darwin on 20th November, and this will be a key topic for discussion, with particular emphasis on reviewing how reform of the Australian VET system can be stepped up, whilst also taking account of the global financial crisis, which has unfolded since the OECD Australian visit,” Mr. Riordan said.

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