



ABN: 39 070 265 734

National Secretariat

Canberra Institute of Technology

Block E, Southside Campus
Ainsworth Street, Phillip

GPO Box 826

Canberra ACT 2601

Australia

Media Release

INFRASTRUCTURE AND STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT BOOST FOR TAFE INSTITUTES

STREAMLINING OF APPRENTICESHIP FUNDING

BUDGET 2009 COMMENT

Australia's TAFE Institutes have welcomed the funding boost for the Education Investment Fund (EIF), and widening Structural Adjustment funding to all Higher Education providers, in the 2009 Federal Budget.

Extra sustainability funding in the new 'Green Skills' pledges will also motivate TAFE Institutes to further strengthen sustainability training and skills for traditional and wider skill areas.

Streamlining proposed to Australian Apprenticeship funding, along with new 'Tools for Trade' apprenticeship funding will also be welcome. The Government's retention of pre-apprenticeship programs was also pleasing.

Martin Riordan, CEO of TAFE Directors Australia, said cutbacks to several incentive payments will bring change to the sector, but welcomed the expansion of the EIF by some \$2 billion, and widening structural adjustment to all Higher Education providers.

Mr Riordan said the concern in the Budget was the lack of funding allocated to the recently announced COAG initiative 'Compact with Young Australians' – albeit some 135,000 Australians were scheduled to benefit from the measure – and no changes announced to the Productivity Places Program.

The Deputy Prime Minister also discussed expectations that the COAG Apprenticeship Taskforce will review future apprenticeship needs.

For further information -

Martin Riordan 0402 090 035