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Media Release

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TAFE DIRECTORS WELCOMES RE-POSITIONING OF OF AUSTRALIA'S TRAINING SYSTEM FOR FUTURE

Australia's TAFE Institutes welcomed the central vision for vocational education to be an equal partner in national reforms to tertiary education, and also welcomed the acknowledgement by the Deputy Prime Minister that training and re-training will be pivotal to economic recovery.

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA), representing Australia's 58 TAFE Institutes, saluted the Deputy Prime Minister's announcement that the structure of the "systemic reforms" proposed would be a '**Three Pillars**' approach based on TAFE Directors' recommendations on quality, productivity and accessibility made in their response to the Bradley Review.

Deb Daly, the Chair of TDA and CEO of Gold Coast Institute of TAFE (Qld), said the Deputy PM's description of TAFE as the engine room of Australia's efforts and success and one of the great institutions of Australian democracy was a resounding endorsement of what the sector has contributed to local and national economies over the years. One in two firms and over 1.67 million students access the VET system annually, illustrating the responsibility for TAFE to step-up with **Skills Australia** and sector stakeholders to nurture the re-positioning proposed under the Government's agenda.

“We support the unified tertiary vision, and know in this economic downturn streamlining the system will be important.”

To assist the Government with the challenge to reposition the national training system as the centerpiece of Australia’s economic recovery, TAFE Directors Australia will commit to:

Support new counter cyclical strategies in order to maintain skill levels through boom bust cycles

Propose expansion of the Government’s Productivity Places Program to include improved pre apprenticeship and related programs

Accelerate consideration of institutional pathways to trade qualification outcomes

Support a funding regime to lift participation and completion targets set by the Government, for 2025.

For further information – Martin Riordan, CEO -- 0402 090 035
