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The Hon. Julia Gillard, MP
Deputy Prime Minister; Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations;
Minister for Education; Minister for Social Inclusion
PO Box 6022, House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Deputy Prime Minister

TDA/AEU INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF QUALITY BENCHMARKS

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) and the Australian Education Union (AEU) congratulate the Federal Government on its announcement via the Federal Budget of the Quality Skills Incentive (\$129.8 million) over three years. TDA and AEU particularly welcome the Incentive because it recognizes that Australia's 59 TAFE institutes offer approximately 80% of accredited training in more than 1300 locations across all states and territories. TDA's 59 public Institute members and the AEU's 16,000 TAFE members recognize that "continuously improving the quality and accessibility of training and student outcomes" (Budget Papers) is essential if the Government's targets for lifting rates of participation and skills deepening are to be achieved.

TDA and the AEU maintain that together they are well placed to assist in the definition of the benchmarks "in aspects of training delivery to improve the quality and accessibility of training and student outcome" that will be the basis of performance based funding. As well, we are prepared to play a significant role in developing the "measures to drive quality improvements" across the vocational education and training sector.

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss these issues with you, and to contribute to the further development of a quality vocational education and training system. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss our proposal.

Yours sincerely

Bruce Mackenzie
Chair, TAFE Directors Australia

Pat Forward
Federal State Secretary, Australian Education Union