

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **RECORD RECRUITMENT FOR SKILLS GRADUATES**

### ***TAFE INSTITUTE TEACHING TOPS PRIVATE VET EDUCATION***

Australia's demand on the vocational education and training sector has seen a record 90% of skills and trade graduates employed following their training last year. For apprentices and traineeship students, the figure reached another record -- 95.3% employed.

The record employability of skilled graduates has topped job success of higher education graduates, and TAFE Institutes' performance has been a key factor in the outcomes.

The Student Outcomes Survey 2007, which covered almost 28,000 students nationwide, was conducted by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER).

The Survey Report recorded 88.8% of students as satisfied with the overall quality of their vocational education and training (VET), with almost one third (30%) of graduates choosing to enrol in further study or education.

The surge in interest to employ VET graduates was a key feature of the Outcomes Survey.

The 2007 skills data showed 95.3% apprentices and trainees employed – well exceeding general graduate employment, recorded in official figures released by Graduate Careers Australia earlier in September 2007. Graduate Careers Australia data showed 82.4% of graduates in full-time work within four months of completing their degrees.

More than three quarters of the VET graduates surveyed by NCVER also said their training was relevant to highly relevant for their successful job. Both public and private providers recorded strong graduate satisfaction in their training delivery, with TAFE Institute training rated at 89.1% and private provider training rated at 88.8%.

The findings were just released in the Student Outcomes 2007 Report by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research.

TAFE Directors Australia Chief Executive Officer, Martin Riordan, welcomed the NCVER findings, saying they presented further proof of the major opportunities skilled training provided for achieving job success – and justified more balance needed by policy makers between investment in higher and vocational education.

“Our TAFE teachers deserve a general ‘pat on the back’ for showing how dedicated teaching, can transfer to real gains for students enrolled in TAFE and vocational education courses.

“The NCVER report shows why TAFE Institutes should be adequately recognised for their role in developing Australia’s skills base into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.”

The NCVER Student Outcomes 2007 Report provides information about VET students in Australia who completed their vocational education and training during 2006.

Students who undertook recreational, leisure or personal enrichment (short) courses are excluded.

TAFE Institutes across city, regional and remote campuses deliver some 85% of accredited vocational education and training in Australia, with private providers making up the balance of training.

The Student Outcomes Survey\* has been conducted annually 1999. Prior surveys, conducted in 1995, 1997 and 1998, only included graduates. Since 2005, the survey has included students from all VET providers (not just TAFE), as well as students whose training was on a fee-for-service basis.

*Details of the NCVER Survey can be found at [www.ncver.edu.au](http://www.ncver.edu.au) refer to publications.*

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