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FOR MEDIA

The Chair of TAFE Directors Australia, Barry Peddle, today announced the appointment of Martin Riordan as TDA's new Executive Director. Mr Riordan will take up his appointment on 19 December.

Mr Peddle said that Mr Riordan was taking the helm of TDA in very challenging times for the publicly funded TAFE system in this country as Institutes move to implement government reforms in line with the Skilling Australia policy agenda and new VET legislation.

Mr Peddle also publicly expressed his thanks to Margaret Fanning who retires early in the new year and acknowledged her leadership and extensive achievements in her time with TDA.

Mr Riordan is currently an executive with the Parliamentary and Communications Branch of the Federal Department of Education, Science and Training. He was recruited to DEST in 2002 after returning from an extended posting to Singapore to be the Department's Principal Ministerial Speechwriter following the appointment to the DEST portfolio of the Honourable Dr Brendan Nelson MP.

Mr Riordan also led strategic projects in the Department's Corporate Strategy Group, including as managing editor of the newly released portfolio internet redevelopment of www.dest.gov.au. The project was recognised as a Team Winner in the DEST Secretary's Excellence Awards 2005.

Martin Riordan began his career as a Canberra and NSW political journalist. He served as a media staffer for the Honourable John Howard MP (when Leader of the Opposition), and later worked as a senior executive with public companies operating in the region. In Singapore, Mr Riordan led a vocational education, industry conference and research agency aligned with Dataconsult - the country associate representing five ASEAN markets for *The Economist Conferences Group*. The agency chaired a new country data sharing protocol for eight leading retailers operating in the emerging convenience retail sector in Asia-Pacific.

He is also involved in industry training at TAFE, as a lecturer in media and communications for Northern Sydney Institute

Contact: Barry Peddle 02 4222 2904 or 0419 578 536