

MEDIA RELEASE

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AUSTRALIA'S TRAINING SYSTEM IS MORE THAN JUST ACCI

Australia's top training provider peak bodies, TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) and the Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET), today called into question the absolute role demanded by ACCI in shaping Australia's national training system.

ACPET and TDA were responding to reports of ACCI's call on the Federal Government to "strengthen the official role that ACCI plays in setting training policy".

The National Chair of the TDA, Barry Peddle, and Tim Smith, ACPET National Executive Officer, today jointly called on the Federal Government to assert its authority and ensure Australia's national training system becomes a true partnership of stakeholders.

"If ACCI thinks it has the cure-all for solving Australia's national skills shortage, then it should set out its magic solution.

"The fact is the last 12 years has seen an industry-led training system which has resulted in a massive skills shortage," Mr Peddle said.

"How does ACCI think a continuation of an ACCI-dominated industry leadership without provider involvement will change things?

"Industry means more than just a single Canberra-based employer group. Australia's training system should be an inclusive partnership."

Under the ACCI model, public and private providers would have second-class status with little opportunity to influence policy direction or resource allocation.

Small businesses employ most Australians. TAFE institutes and private training providers overwhelmingly meet their training needs.

"Enough of the past. It is important that the balance tilts away from the top end of town and a positive direction is set for the future," Mr Smith said.

"Providers acknowledge the need for industry and business – including small and medium enterprises – to lead the processes. However, ACCI-driven policy alone will not complete the equation for an effective and responsive national training system.

"Public and private providers are charged with the responsibility of bringing to life the policies set and therefore must be partners at the table."

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