

MEDIA RELEASE

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POLICY ROADMAP TO AVOID POTHoles FOR MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR ELECTION PLEDGES BY PARTIES ON SKILLING IN SCHOOLS

Australia's TAFE Directors and CEOs have signalled that both major political parties risk sending students, parents, teachers and schools into dead-end skills experiences unless Key Success Criteria are followed before future spending is committed.

Martin Riordan, Chief Executive of TAFE Directors Australia (TDA), representing Australia's 57 TAFE Institutes, released the Key Success Criteria for Trades in Schools, ahead of the 2007 National TAFE Convention.

To date, the Howard Government has committed some \$550 million towards 25 Australian Technical Colleges – with pledges to extend ATCs -- while Labor's Training pledge promises \$2.5 billion to fund trade centres across Australia's 2,650 secondary schools.

Martin Riordan said: "TAFE refuses to make judgements on either scheme, but instead in Melbourne today, TAFE Directors installed '**Proceed with Caution**' road signs to ensure skills in schools prove effective in promoting skilling."

"TAFE Directors know that neither side of politics so far has adequately engaged TAFE Institutes. Yet in Europe where youth, skills and school engagement has been trialled, close collaboration and co-location with skill institutes have been keys to their engagement success for youth and skills.

"Further, there have been success factors like peer development, sport and openly creating skills education separate to traditional schooling, that remain important if Australia's investment in school skilling is to be effective."

The 11 Key Success Factors released today by TDA were based on international research, pedagogical observation, and reviews of how skilling in schools can be widened – and made popular – to young Australians in school.

The TDA roadmap on skilling in schools will be one of six national training proposals made to Australia's political parties, released as the TAFE Directors' Australia Election 2007 Manifesto, at the TDA National Convention on Monday (24th September 2007).

TAFE Directors Australia is the peak incorporated body representing Australia's 57 TAFE colleges and institutes.

[ATTACHMENT – 11 KEY SUCCESS FACTORS FOR SKILLS IN SCHOOL]

For further information:

TAFE Directors' 11 Key Success Factors for Skills in School

- (i) To attempt to maximise outcomes for students socially, occupationally and educationally with a set of extra curricula activities, and utilise sport and outdoor education as areas to promote social skills and teamwork.*
- (ii) To utilise applied and project based methodology.*
- (iii) To adopt a view that basic literacy and numeracy are fundamental skills for further education.*
- (iv) To construct an environment that demonstrates to students and parents that vocationally oriented pathways have parity in outcome and esteem with parallel academic programs.*
- (v) To receive adequate and sustainable levels of funding.*
- (vi) To have access to a strong pastoral care and personal and concern counselling services.*
- (vii) To have a substantial general education program occupationally relevant but which can lead to further study.*
- (viii) To be involved in a social partnership with employers, educationalists and the community.*
- (ix) To provide work experience.*
- (x) To have a clear identity which builds student self esteem and a sense of pride, encompassing work based learning, respecting the unique needs of all students.*
- (xi) To focus on a student's individual needs and interests.*