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TAFE WELCOMES \$500M BOOST WITH TEACHING & LEARNING CAPITAL FUND TO TAFE INSTITUTE EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Today's \$500M Federal pledge to TAFE Institutes for new infrastructure, and extra structural adjustment funding to target technology and 'green skills', will bring relief to a sector isolated from special Federal funding for more than 10 years.

TAFE Directors Australia today welcomed the infrastructure announcement by the Prime Minister, and Deputy Prime Minister.

"The announcement is especially welcomed, given the cutbacks of recent years, and amid the worsening economic downturn" said Martin Riordan, Chief Executive, TAFE Directors Australia.

Mr. Riordan said the new funds -- although not expected to flow till mid-2009 -- would double as a bonus for teachers and students, and to contractors and communities across suburban, regional and remote areas where TAFE Institutes are widely located.

"We especially congratulate the Government for identifying the need to position the TAFE sector to be ready for an expected rise in demand for 'green skills', Mr. Riordan said.

"As Australia looks to meeting new industry targets for sustainability, so TAFE Institutes will increasingly step-up their focus to lead with domestic and international training initiatives on 'green skills.'

For further information:

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