

MEDIA RELEASE

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COMMENTS ON THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

Australia's TAFE sector has welcomed the Education Blueprint proposed by the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI).

However, TAFE Directors Australia has rejected, as superficial, survey results included in the report suggesting low satisfaction rates with TAFE from employers and students.

Martin Riordan, Executive Director, said the ACCI survey was at odds with the last five years of independent survey results from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research. The results for 2005-2006 saw TAFE overtake the private training providers in employer and student satisfaction rankings.

"The ACCI survey and criticisms included by CEO Peter Hendy in the report, tarnish what are otherwise constructive ideas for both political parties as education becomes a major issue for the 2007 federal election," said Martin Riordan.

"The overwhelmingly positive findings on satisfaction levels have been supported by record TAFE enrolments, resulting in surprise at the findings of the ACCI Report."

TAFE Directors Australia welcomed ACCI's support for other initiatives, contained in TDA's own reports to COAG in recent months including:

- Support for extending Student Loans from higher to vocational education - after successful trials in Canada and Scandinavia
- Support for more autonomy and governance reform for TAFE - securing wider financial capability to service students and industry
- Support for wider industry investment in training - and government investment in sector growth

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