

MEDIA RELEASE

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AUTONOMY AND FUNDING THE MAIN PRIORITIES FROM TAFE NATIONAL SURVEY

Australia's TAFE Directors and CEOs have signalled autonomy and a new funding model for TAFE colleges as critical to resolving skill shortages.

The National CEOs Survey was released on the eve of the 2007 TDA National Convention, amid preparations by the Australian Government for a new three-year multi-billion dollar VET funding agreement on TAFE with state and territory governments.

Martin Riordan, Chief Executive of TAFE Directors Australia, said the National Survey flagged a clear message that further reform would be strongly supported by leadership of the TAFE sector.

"With the top four responses calling for a review of funding, followed by reform of governance, the survey highlights the mood for striking a better business focus on TAFE Institutes," Martin Riordan said.

"TAFE Directors are looking for an improved financial model for TAFE."

TAFE Institutes operate under differing governance arrangements across states and territories, and TAFE Directors have advocated a "self-governance" model to enhance financial accountability and operational performance.

Martin Riordan said TAFE Institutes were undergoing a paradigm change in meeting demands for steeply increased enterprise off-campus training, technology in the workplace, accelerating requirements to meet international partnership and student needs, and staying ahead of quality systems.

He added: "The current hours-based-on-campus funding model has outlived its days. The sheer size of institutes, the range of students and training, and the higher level qualifications requiring wider staffing needs, all indicate the need for major change at TAFE Institutes."

The 2007 National Convention theme "*Reframe ~ Refresh ~ Fresh Start*" will feature the training ministers from both major political parties, a Business Tertiary Roundtable, and senior state regulators to review TAFE going into the 2007 Federal election, and the next VET Funding Agreement.

2007 Members Survey

National Survey of Directors across 57 TAFE Institutes

Issue	Ranking priorities
Reviewing and monitoring the funding model for VET	1
Level of recurrent funding to states needs to be increased	2
Level of capital funding to states needs to be increased	2
Governance – continued push for autonomy of the public provider	3
Skill shortages and capacity of public provider to respond	4
Quality Frameworks for international education	5
A national regulation system (NARA) – proposed under AQTF 2007	6
Skilled migration and visa categories	6
Tuition Assurance (for Fee Help) – exemption for public providers	7
Youth and the role of TAFE in vocational school education over Years 11 & 12	8
Applied research in vocation areas – incentives to grow	8
National support for resource development	9
Indigenous training	9