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**AUSTRALIAN TAFE INSTITUTES TO SUPPORT
US \$200M CHILEAN BICENTENNIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
FREE TRADE AGREEMENT FOCUS ON EDUCATION**

TAFE Directors Australia and the Government of the Republic of Chile today signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** that will support TAFE delivering vocational education and English language courses, for up to 400 students a year.

The landmark vocational education Agreement with the Republic of Chile, coincides with this week's Australia-Chile Free Trade Agreement, which under President Bachellet has earmarked both higher education and vocational public education to be equally targeted for Chilean students offered international Bicentennial scholarships.

The bilateral TAFE-Chilean Government TAFE Agreement will see skills and English language courses delivered under selection arrangements by member TAFE Director Australia Institutes.

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA), the peak body for Australia's 58 TAFE Institutes, secured the Memorandum of Understanding with a signing in Sydney (4.00pm, Tues) between Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Mr. Alejandro Foxley and TDA Chair, Deb Daly, Institute Director of Gold Coast Institute of TAFE in Queensland.

Priority areas of vocational education training for Chilean students will be focused in mining, agriculture and food technologies, aquaculture and fishing, tourism and hospitality, biotechnology, ICT, energy and environmental and health issues, education, housing and public security.

TDA will oversee the annual selection program in collaboration with the Bicentennial Committee for Human Development, and after the selection process, the number of grants to be awarded.

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) this year celebrates its 10th anniversary as the peak body representing Australia's 58 TAFE Institutes, and sits on the National Quality Council and policy bodies for domestic and international vocational education.

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