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Education revolution – \$11b Fund welcome for TAFE

Australia's TAFE institutes welcome the Budget 2008 initiative for the **\$11b Education Investment Fund** – bringing historic equal focus to skills with universities.

Martin Riordan, Chief Executive of TAFE Directors Australia, said the new **Education Investment Fund**, along with the extension of new training places from 450,000 to 630,000 over five years, will give hope to those looking to TAFE study and skills as a career choice.

“Our TAFE Directors Australia advocacy to extend the \$6b endowment fund to TAFE – now with the \$11b education investment fund – is great news for students, and will boost TAFE capacity to meet growing demand for 21st century technology training by industry,” said Martin Riordan.

“Deputy Prime Minister Gillard should be congratulated for this major initiative on skills, and especially her pledge to proceed to a ‘national vision’ for TAFE to meet the productivity growth required for Australia.”

TAFE Directors Australia represents Australia's 57 TAFE and technology institutes, across all states and territories.

TAFE directors also welcomed Budget 2008 measures to subsidise TAFE fees for 8000 students - studying diploma and advanced diploma early childhood courses.

For further information please contact Martin Riordan – Mobile 0402 090 035.