LAUNCH OF NATIONAL CHARTER FOR TAFE

Framework for the National Partnership Agreement on Skills

Wednesday, 16 May 2012

Today, TAFE Directors Australia released a National Charter for TAFE.

The National Charter for TAFE is based on four principles for the Australian public provider (TAFE) network:

**PRINCIPLE 1**  FUNDING MAINTAINS THE VIABILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS OF PUBLIC PROVIDERS

**PRINCIPLE 2**  QUALITY CRITERIA ARE SUBSTANTIALLY ENHANCED

**PRINCIPLE 3**  GOVERNANCE ENABLES FLEXIBILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS

**PRINCIPLE 4**  RECOGNITION OF THE INNOVATION AND LEADERSHIP ROLES OF TAFE, INCLUDING ITS PIVOTAL POSITION IN RURAL AND REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

A special out-of-session motion was unanimously supported by TAFE directors attending the Annual General Meeting of TDA, held in Adelaide.

The purpose of a National Charter for TAFE is to form a framework under the recent COAG agreement, which included “…implementing strategies which enable TAFEs to operate effectively in an environment of greater competition.”

TDA developed the National Charter for TAFE following recommendations of Skills Australia in its landmark report, *Skills for Prosperity: a VET Roadmap*. Skills Australia indicated TDA may articulate the principles of Australia’s TAFE network.

Education and Training Ministers under the Standing Council of Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment (SCOTSESE) issued a Communiqué (Brisbane, Nov 2011), supporting the public provider as a critical part of Australia’s vocational education and training system.
Chief Executive Officer of TDA, Martin Riordan said: “The National Charter for TAFE can become a cornerstone of the way public funds are allocated within Australia’s vocational education and training system,” Mr Riordan said.

“The four Principles will be placed before all Australian governments – Commonwealth, State and Territory, and key stakeholders. Letters will be sent to the Prime Minister and SCOTese Ministers and officials with the launch of the Charter today.”

TAFE Directors Australia is the peak body for Australia’s 61 TAFE (technical and further education) Institutes, including five dual sector universities with TAFE divisions.

For further information:

Martin Riordan 0402 090 035