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TAFE Directors Australia announces new Chief Executive Officer

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) today announced that former senior Commonwealth and Victorian government education official Mr Craig Robertson has been appointed as the organisation's new Chief Executive Officer.

Mr Robertson was most recently Deputy Secretary, Higher Education and Skills, at the Victorian Department of Education and Training.

With the Commonwealth Government he served in a number of leadership positions covering most aspects of vocational education and training and other areas of social policy.

The Chair of TDA, Ms Mary Faraone said, "I am delighted that TDA has secured the services of such a highly-credentialed and capable person to lead the peak national body at such an important time.

"Craig has a wealth of experience across the broader education sector and, in particular, an intimate knowledge of the needs, priorities and trends shaping vocational education and training.

"He has played a pivotal role in many of the strategic and policy developments in the sector over several decades and is ideally placed to lead TAFE as it positions for a new era of growth and opportunity," Ms Faraone said.

Mr Robertson said he was honoured and excited to be leading the organisation and helping TAFE to play an expanded role in training, employment and skills development.

"TAFEs play a unique role in building a highly skilled and adaptable workforce, which is central to Australia's ongoing prosperity. Their partnerships with industry and the high standard of training set TAFEs apart in the opportunity they offer students," he said.

Mr Robertson's appointment, which will take effect in early April, follows the announcement last November by the current Chief Executive Officer, Mr Martin Riordan, of his intention to step down after twelve years leading TDA.

Ms Faraone said the Board of TDA is indebted to Martin for the outstanding job he has done in advancing the position of TAFE across the domestic and international landscape.

"On behalf of the Board and the team at TDA, I sincerely thank Martin and wish him every success. We look forward to Craig building on the great work that Martin has done," Ms Faraone said.

Mr Robertson said he is keen to engage with stakeholders and work closely with TAFE institutes, and furthering TDA's role as a leader in tertiary education strategy and policy.

Media contact:

Bob Bowden, Foresight Communications, bbowden@bowmac.com.au 0412 753 298