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TAFE NSW skills centres aim to generate the jobs of the future

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) today welcomed the announcement by TAFE NSW of its new network of industry relationship centres known as SkillsPoints, which will become a focal point for training delivery.

The Chief Executive of TDA Craig Robertson said the centres would provide a valuable means for employers and prospective students to access modern and contemporary training.

“Australia’s biggest TAFE is taking a lead in creating a central point of contact for industry with a focus on the emerging skills and jobs of the future,” Mr Robertson said.

“It is a demonstration of the evolving role of TAFE in delivering training and courses that are at the cutting edge of industry need, in both metropolitan and regional areas,” he said.

SkillsPoints was launched today at the Queanbeyan campus of TAFE by the Deputy Premier and Minister for Skills the Hon John Barilaro, and the Assistant Minister for Skills the Hon Adam Marshall.

The CEO of TAFE NSW Jon Black said that a pilot SkillsPoint would be established in the Newcastle region for Innovative Manufacturing, Robotics and Science, with a further eight centres to be announced in coming months.

Mr Robertson commended the initiative, saying that it showed the capacity of TAFE to respond to the changing needs of industry in relation to course design, content and delivery.

“If we are to deliver the skills needed in a dynamic, modern economy, we will be increasingly called on to be flexible and adaptive in responding to the needs of industry and learners.

“The SkillsPoint centres also have the potential to play a key part in enhancing the profile of vocational pathways in a productive 21st century economy, especially in regional areas where much innovation is occurring,” Mr Robertson said.

TAFE NSW provides nearly three quarters of all government-funded training across many locations in NSW.

Australian TAFEs deliver in over 1,000 locations across the nation and train over two million students each year.

“This demonstrates the strength of TAFE in engaging with industry and facilitating much-needed improvements in productivity.

“As the nature of work and skills changes, innovation such as that in NSW and elsewhere shows that TAFE is meeting the current and future needs of both learners and employers,” Mr Robertson said.

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