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**TAFE DIRECTORS AUSTRALIA Submission to the Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Legislation Committee**

Higher Education Support Amendment (Streamlining and Other Measures) Bill 2012

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA), as the peak national body for the 61 TAFE institutes welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Higher Education Support Amendment (Streamlining and Other Measures) Bill 2012.

TDA has consulted with its members. While individual members will make their own submissions, TDA's position that the proposed changes to VET FEE-HELP are highly desirable is strongly supported in the interests of achieving a more effective and transparent system. The legislation has the potential to remove some of the current administrative complexity in the system and the current difficulties in communicating its detail. Students and industry will benefit from a more streamlined system

TDA applauds the introduction of a risk based approach to the process of approving providers to offer VET FEE HELP. TDA maintains that it is inefficient for TAFE institutes with their publicly accountable governance processes to be subjected to the same application processes as high risk providers.

While in broad terms TDA supports the Bill, TDA maintains that there is a fundamental inequity in the current FEE HELP arrangements whereby, with two exceptions, students undertaking higher education qualifications in TAFE institutes do not have the same entitlement to income contingent loans as students studying in universities.

Changes to the administration of VET FEE HELP are long overdue. TDA supports the streamlining of VET FEE HELP as part of a phased approach to redesigning the scheme and invites further consultation on the revised Guidelines.

TAFE Directors Australia would be happy to provide additional information in support of this submission.

Yours sincerely,

MARTIN RIORDAN
Chief Executive Officer
TAFE Directors Australia
