

13 April 2012

Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: [ewr.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:ewr.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Secretary

**Skills Australia Amendment (Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency) Bill 2012**

Established in 1992, The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) is the national industry association for private providers of post-compulsory education and training. ACPET has over 1,100 members nationally delivering a full range of higher education and vocational education and training (VET) including apprenticeship, traineeships and English language courses across all Australian States and Territories.

ACPET welcomes the invitation to make a submission to this inquiry into the Skills Australia Amendment (Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency) Bill 2012 (the Bill). ACPET has long been an advocate for better linkages between skills funding and industry needs and to increase the focus on workplace productivity in Australia. ACPET members play an ever increasing and pivotal role in building the workforce capability and productivity of the nation. Accordingly ACPET supports the Government's establishment of the Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency with a focus on lifting the productivity of the Australian economy.

ACPET has had a strong relationship with Skills Australia and has on multiple occasions provided input into Skills Australia led consultations and research. We look forward to this relationship continuing following the establishment of the Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency. ACPET believes that by providing the Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency with a stronger research, analysis and advisory role that Government will be well placed to develop policy that will effectively meet the needs of Australia's dynamic economy.

ACPET notes that the Bill proposes that membership of the body will be expanded to be a fully represented union and industry led body. ACPET believes that it is appropriate that the training sector also be represented as part of the Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency membership. ACPET would be pleased to work with Government to nominate a representative that has an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the training sector. Such an appointment would add valuable expertise to the Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency as it develops advice for Government. This is particularly so given the vital role that the VET sector plays in skilling and up-skilling Australia's workforce.

ACPET would be pleased to meet with the Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations should that be necessary to discuss any issues raised in this letter or in relation to any other issues as they emerge during the Senate Economics Committee deliberations.

Yours sincerely

**Chief Executive Officer**