



**MEDIA STATEMENT
For Immediate Release**

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General Skilled Migration Arrangements will Impact International Education Industry

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) has expressed concern that many businesses have been left in a planning vacuum by changes to General Skilled Migration announced today.

The Federal Government has announced significant changes to the arrangements that will impact future students, the central plank of which arrangements is a revised Skilled Occupation List (SOL).

“The new Skilled Occupation List (SOL) will not be released until the end of April and until this time businesses will not be able to make informed decisions about the future,” ACPET Chief Executive Andrew Smith said today.

“In the absence of a revised SOL, businesses cannot properly anticipate their future resource and staff needs. Many of these businesses have been hard hit by the fall in demand from key source markets and this uncertainty will add these pressures.

“Australia needs skilled workers in many industries - a thriving vocational education and training (VET) sector, with strong links to industry and nationally-consistent accreditation and regulatory practices is the best way to achieve that.”

ACPET has welcomed the Government’s commitment to existing students and says it is pleased that transition arrangements have been put in place.

“We have advocated strongly on behalf of this group who have travelled to Australia to study, many of whom will be considering the opportunities afforded by settling permanently in Australia,” Mr Smith added.

“We have long argued that skilled migrants are highly valued by Australian industry, and that Australian training is the best way to ensure skilled migrants meet the needs of industry and make a sustained contribution to growing the Australian economy.”

Andrew Smith is available for comment

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