

8 November 2011

The Hon Kerry Shine MP
Chair
Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane, QLD 4000

Dear Mr Shine

Inquiry into the Vocational Education and Training (Commonwealth Powers) and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2011

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Committee's inquiry into the Vocational Education and Training (Commonwealth Powers) and Other Acts Amendment Bill (2011). ACPET supports the Bill and believe that Queensland will benefit from being a part of ASQA's national regulatory framework.

Since 2005-2006 there has been a growing chorus within the vocational education and training sector for more appropriate, more streamlined and more effective regulation. The lack of national consistency within the current state-based regulatory arrangements remains a major cause for concern across ACPET's members and across the sector more broadly.

Employers, students and their parents need confidence in the quality arrangements underpinning the vocational education and training sector. ACPET believes that only a national and more proportionate/risk-based approach to regulation can deliver that confidence. ACPET supports Queensland's transition to the National Regulator so that the sector will have a nationally consistent approach to regulation, the quality bar within the sector can be raised and seriously non-compliant providers dealt with.

ACPET considers that the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), which was established by the *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011 (Commonwealth)* significantly strengthens the ability of the regulator to take action against seriously non-compliant providers. ASQA serves to improve the quality of vocational education and training being delivered in Australia, by making it easier for the regulator to deal with those providers not committed to high quality education and training. ACPET's believes that Queensland will benefit from being a part of ASQA's national regulatory framework.

On 26 October 2010 ACPET wrote to the Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining, the Hon Stirling Hinchcliffe, to convey its support for the passage of Queensland referral legislation for the national registration of Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) under ASQA.

ACPET would welcome the opportunity to appear before the Committee to respond to any questions that the Committee may have.

Yours faithfully



Claire Field
Chief Executive Officer