

CDAA Supports Queensland Government's VET Funding Announcement

18 July 2016

The Career Development Association of Australia supports the Queensland Government's announcement to inject significant funding into skills and training.

The announcement of \$810.7 million as part of the Queensland Government's 2016-17 Annual VET Investment Plan, comes at a time of nation-wide budget cuts to the sector.

CDAA spokesperson Wanda Hayes said this type of investment is much-needed across all states and federally.

"The number of Australians taking up apprenticeships has dropped by 20 per cent over the past year, with 123,000 less apprentices than two years ago," Ms Hayes said.

"If we continue with these numbers, Australia can expect a skills shortage unless there is a fast response from all governments."

The Queensland Government's VET Investment Plan will provide funding for apprenticeships, traineeships, certificate 3 and higher level qualifications, and public providers including TAFE.

CDAA also applauds the Government's decision to release a VET Quality Framework, which will outline the state's expectations for high quality training delivery and standards of behaviour.

"We are currently in a market where some training organisations exploit and mislead vulnerable people, registering them for courses they cannot afford and often don't need," Ms Hayes said.

"This framework is a step in the right direction towards regulating the sector, however more still needs to be done."

Last year, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) conducted a high-profile investigation into 10 unnamed training providers.

The ACCC is currently seeking to overturn VET FEE-HELP debts of consumers who were misled, for training providers to repay course fees and penalties for unethical training providers.

The Career Development Association of Australia (CDAA) commenced as the Australian Association of Career Counsellors in 1989, and is Australia's largest cross-sectoral association of career development professionals working in a diverse range of roles, delivering services in industry, government, education, employment programs and community organisations. The primary purpose of the CDAA is to support its members by leading, building and growing the career development profession.

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