



# ACCI POLICY STATEMENT

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING POLICY

---

### PRINCIPLES OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING POLICY

ACCI advocates a comprehensive education and training system which enables all Australians to contribute to a cohesive, democratic and prosperous society in which the attributes and skills of individuals are fully developed. This is crucial in meeting the short and long term economic goals of Australia and provides business with a competitive edge to compete in the global economy.

Industry requires a system that retains incentives for employers and promotes the flexibility to choose education and training options which meet specific industry needs.

### POLICY OBJECTIVES

ACCI supports education and training policies which:

- improve education and training as a demand driven system that is specifically aligned to industry needs;
- support the allocation of government funding to education and training outcomes that provide incentives for employers to participate, maximise opportunities for participants and enhance efficiencies within the system;
- expand the role of competitive markets in all sectors by pursuing open competition principles that diversify the supply of education;
- create competitive conditions that enhance the 'user choice' principle;
- promote student centred funding that allows an individual to purchase a course of study through the school, vocational education and training provider or university of their choice;
- maximise education and training pathways from school to the workplace;
- align packaging of training standards leading to a national qualification under the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF);
- focus on nationally consistent outcomes and achieve standards that are comparable to international standards of best practice;
- respond to the growing need for students to undertake workplace learning programs that develop links with industry and create pathways to further training and employment;
- improve, and regularly test, on a nationally agreed and consistent basis, literacy and numeracy standards;
- strengthen the focus on sound basics, such as literacy and numeracy, at primary school level;
- acknowledge, develop and assess in a contextual manner, employability skills;

- improve and integrate careers education, employability skills and enterprise education principles into the education and training system;
- provide the adoption of an enterprising culture, particularly by young Australians;
- support articulation arrangements across the school, vocational education and training and higher education sectors;
- promote equality of education opportunities and options for groups with special needs;
- enhance opportunities for education providers to be trained and qualified to standards which are adequately benchmarked; and
- promote training reform which is enterprise focused, demand driven, flexible, mindful of all parties involved and devoid of extensive bureaucracy.

## THE POLICY FRAMEWORK

Australia's education and training system must provide people with the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to participate fully in Australian society - culturally, socially and in their employment. All Australians must be able to:

- benefit from a sound education platform which provides basic literacy and numeracy skills;
- pursue future education and training opportunities which enhance workplace skills; and
- develop a positive attitude to the concept of life-long learning.

ACCI plays an active part in the development, monitoring and evaluation of education and training policies and programs that impact on business. This is in recognition that growing

support for the development of a comprehensive education and training system is pivotal to the achievement of short and long term economic goals of Australia.

Education and training is imperative for:

- an increase in the competitiveness of enterprises and the need to respond to global competitiveness pressures;
- employee satisfaction/motivation through acquisition of higher skills;
- flexibility/adaptation of workers to change in the workplace;
- ability of companies to draw on workers in emerging labour markets and meet new industry needs; and
- enabling enterprises to build upon skills of existing workers, particularly younger workers, to adapt them to a particular workplace.

Education and training provides business with a competitive edge to compete in the global economy. ACCI plays a key role in ensuring that education and training principles reflect the needs of business. For this purpose, a range of forums and consultative structures are assisting industry and government to work together in reforming the education and training system to better meet the needs of industry.

For further information contact:

Mary Hicks

Director, Education and Training

Telephone: (02) 6273 2311

Facsimile: (02) 6273 3196

Email: [mary.hicks@acci.asn.au](mailto:mary.hicks@acci.asn.au)