

15/5/2020

Mr Chris Steel MLA  
Member for Murrumbidgee  
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Dear Mr Steel

Thank you for your response letter dated 1 May 2020. I very much appreciate your efforts to acknowledge and consider the APTS report into the potential impacts of the 2020 User Choice and Skilled Capital funding cuts.

Firstly, on behalf of APTS and our member RTOs, I would like to thank you and your Government for the exemplary way in which you have responded to the current crisis. The measures put in place to support the VET sector have been very well received and will ensure the sector will survive and be able to continue training and educating thousands of Canberrans into the future. I would also like to acknowledge the distinct and welcomed increase in the willingness of Skills Canberra to consult with the sector during this time, in particular, the efforts made by Josephine Andersen.

Private sector RTOs are an integral component of the overall ACT VET sector. They are responsive, innovative and high performing businesses that deliver cost effective, high quality training with excellent outcomes. In 2018, 89.8% of students were satisfied with the overall quality of training delivered by private sector RTOs whilst the public provider received an 87.4% overall satisfaction rating (Government-funded student outcomes 2019 - NCVER).

Collectively, training delivered by private sector RTO's in the ACT accounts for more than 50% of total User Choice and Skilled Capital funding and is vital in ensuring the ACT has sufficient training capacity to meet the existing and emerging skill needs of the economy. Without a strong private training sector the cost to deliver traineeships and apprenticeships and other funding initiatives would blow-out considerably.

Finally, APTS believes that competition and full contestability for ACT Government funds for VET are essential in driving productivity, continuous improvement, and responsiveness to industry and employer needs.

Thanks again for your letter. APTS very much looks forward to working closely with Skills Canberra.

Yours sincerely

Mark Field  
Executive Committee