MEDIA RELEASE

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TAFE to showcase its national contribution to the country's political leaders

'TAFE for Australia', Members' Private Dining Room, Parliament House Canberra, Wednesday 22 August, 5.30pm

TAFE's contribution to Australia will be the key topic in Canberra today with the inaugural 'TAFE for Australia' showcase at Parliament House.

TAFE leaders and supporters will be in the nation's capital to demonstrate their commitment to a strong network of TAFEs Australia-wide and will be meeting with policy makers across the political spectrum.

TAFE for Australia will see Ministers, Shadow Ministers, MPs, advisers, industry leaders, government officials and diplomatic representatives join TDA board members and TAFE institute directors, staff and students on Wednesday evening to celebrate and be inspired by TAFE's history and achievement.

Speakers include the Assistant Minister for Vocational Education and Skills Karen Andrews, the Shadow Minister for Skills and Apprenticeships Doug Cameron, and Associate Editor of *The Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald* Tony Wright.

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) CEO Craig Robertson said TAFE for Australia will bring policy makers face-to-face with those responsible for the extraordinary contribution of TAFEs across the country.

"It will enable our policy makers to see first-hand the great value of our TAFE system to individuals, the economy and the community.

"TAFE is more than a learning institution. It is a central part of our infrastructure that links schools, students, employers and communities in every part of Australia.

"We want to highlight the value that communities and industry attach to TAFE and show why it is vital that TAFE is enabled to play its part in skills development and economic prosperity," he said.

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TAFE Directors Australia is the peak national body representing 28 TAFE institutes, including six dual sector universities with TAFE divisions.