

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **TAFEs welcome new Albanese government ministry**

The peak national body, TAFE Directors Australia (TDA), today welcomed the announcement of the new Albanese Government Ministry, which provides stability and certainty to the VET and higher education sectors.

TDA welcomes Andrew Giles who remains as Minister for Skills and Training, working alongside Amanda Rishworth as the new Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

TDA also welcomes Jason Clare who stays on as Minister for Education, and a new appointment, Julian Hill in the newly created portfolio of Assistant Minister for International Education.

TDA congratulates Senator Tim Ayres as the new Minister for Industry and Innovation and Minister for Science, and Senator Malarndirri McCarthy who continues as Minister for Indigenous Australians.

The Chief Executive Officer of TDA, Jenny Dodd welcomed the ministry announcement, which she said would provide confidence across the sectors, with established, proven ministers with a solid understanding of the reform processes underway.

"We look forward to continuing to work with ministers on key issues including free-TAFE, the rollout of TAFE Centres of Excellence, and the establishment of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC), as well as measures to bring about a harmonised tertiary education sector," Ms Dodd said.

"In its last term, the Albanese government placed TAFE at the heart of the tertiary education system and has committed to further advancing the place of TAFE in future years.

"We are very encouraged by the strong mandate the government has to advance the place of TAFE, and confident in the ministers that will continue with this important work," Ms Dodd said.

TDA also looks forward to working with ministers and Commonwealth departments on the vital work of setting up the independent Australian Tertiary Education Commission which will have responsibility for driving long-term higher education reform and enabling better alignment with VET.

Another key piece of architecture will involve consultations over the Strategic Review of the Australian Apprenticeship Incentive System, which is expected to be decided later this year.

TDA welcomes the government's commitment to cut 20 per cent from HELP, VET Student Loans and Australian Apprenticeship Support Loans, and acknowledges this will be the first piece of legislation to come before the new parliament.

"The Albanese government has achieved a historic majority position in the parliament in its second term and now has a strong mandate to pursue the reforms developed during the first term and outlined in the election campaign," Ms Dodd said.

"We look forward to working energetically with ministers, and across the national TAFE network, to bring about the landmark changes that Australians have overwhelmingly endorsed".

**Media contact:** Bob Bowden, 0412 753 298 [bbowden@bowmac.com.au](mailto:bbowden@bowmac.com.au)

TAFE Directors Australia is the peak national body representing 28 TAFE institutes, including six dual sector universities with TAFE divisions and nine TAFEs that are also non-university higher education providers.