



MEDIA RELEASE

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Morrison Government doesn't back its own skills system

An announcement today by the Minister for Education and Training, Dan Teahan, supported by the Minister for Skills and Vocational Education Senator Michaela Cash, demonstrates how far from reality the Morrison government's skills policies have drifted.

The announced project gives \$212,00 to Deakin University to establish an industry-led vocational education and training (VET) system for Indonesia's logistics sector that will provide training and qualifications to improve the local industry.

The CEO of TAFE Directors Australia Craig Robertson said the decision is in "fantasy land".

"Deakin is a laudable organisation but hardly has the credentials or experience to represent Australia in an industry engagement approach for vocational qualifications.

"Moreover, the decision shows that the Government has no faith in the dedicated industry bodies it established to engage directly with industry to develop industry-relevant vocational qualifications," he said.

Skills Service Organisations are government established organisations dedicated to engaging with industry locally, and overseas, to develop vocational qualifications. They are funded by Minister Cash and managed by the same Department that assessed this project as worthy to go to a university.

"Efforts by universities in the vocational space often end badly. A natural bent to research and citations does little to enable genuine engagement with industry to develop their workforces," Mr Robertson said.

TDA understands that this project was approved by the previous Minister for Education and Training, Senator Simon Birmingham.

"Any effort by TDA and TAFEs to reach out across the tertiary sector are undermined by decisions such as this.

"It would be nice to think that there could be better collaboration between the sectors so that work goes to where it is done best, not to growing the balance sheet of a university, or to placate a sector annoyed by decisions to cap growth funds."

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