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TDA welcomes federal opposition's pledge for a stronger TAFE system

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) has welcomed the federal opposition's commitment to a strong, effective TAFE system as the cornerstone of national training.

The Chief Executive of TDA Craig Robertson said Opposition Leader Bill Shorten's Budget-in-Reply last night set out a significant plan for investment and rebuilding of the TAFE system.

It includes a commitment to restore \$637 million in funding to the VET sector, establish a \$100 million Building TAFE for the Future Fund, and a guarantee that two-thirds of public vocational education funding would go to TAFE.

Mr Robertson welcomed the federal opposition's promises, saying it demonstrated a strong commitment to the role of TAFE as pivotal to training and apprenticeships, particularly in regional Australia.

"This is a very welcome pledge to rebuild TAFE as a centerpiece of the national training system and to recognise its role in a changing economy dealing with structural change and digital disruption," Mr Robertson said.

It follows the federal Budget on Tuesday which outlined a series of initiatives to support the vocational sector and apprenticeships, including the \$1.5 billion Skilling Australians Fund and the \$60 million apprentice mentoring program.

"It is vitally important that Australia's vocational education and training system is supported and funded so that it contributes to generating the skills and the jobs of the future.

"TAFEs stand ready to work with governments to ensure that there is the capacity, adaptability and the focus on training that directly supports industry and contributes to national prosperity and economic growth," Mr Robertson said.

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