



the voice of the industry

9 August 2019

HIA WELCOMES VISION FOR SKILLS

The Housing Industry Association (HIA) welcomes the attention given at today's COAG meeting to vocational education and training including the announcement of 'a vision for skills in Australia'. State and Territory leaders, together with the Prime Minister, agreed today to a 'shared vision for VET delivering high quality education and training that meets the needs of students and employers'.

"Today's COAG agreement recognises that the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector is critical for our economy and critical in ensuring Australians are equipped for the workforce now and in the future," said HIA Chief Executive Industry Policy, Kristin Brookfield.

"To successfully achieve this vision it is crucial that governments actively consult and engage with industry, business and employers.

"A cooperative approach between the federal government, state and territory governments, together with meaningful consultation with industry, will help to deliver a much need refresh for the VET sector.

"It is crucial that the VET sector continues to deliver for the residential building industry. The benefits of a strong residential building industry have always flowed onto support the broader economy.

"Industry needs to see a consistent approach, a coordinated approach and a durable approach that can stand the test of time. For too long the VET sector has been reformed, reviewed and restructured, making it difficult if not impossible to achieve that consistent and coordinated approach.

"The VET sector offers training targeted at specific jobs and can help to support our future workforce by focusing on the jobs that Australia needs filled.

"The announcement today of a new COAG Skills Council which, in consultation with education ministers, to advise leaders on future reform priorities for the VET sector by the end of this year is also a welcome move.

"The second objective of the COAG Skills Council – to provide a reform roadmap to COAG in early 2020 – presents the opportunity to provide a strategy for ensuring a strong, effective and efficient VET sector.

"HIA looks forward to working with all governments to deliver COAG's vision for Australia's VET sector and for the future skilling of our industry."

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