



ACT AUDITOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Performance Audit Report

### Vocational Education and Training

The Auditor-General, Mrs Tu Pham, has presented a Performance Audit report titled **Vocational Education and Training**, to the Speaker for tabling today in the Legislative Assembly.

Vocational education plays a key part in helping people meet their career aspirations and in addressing skill shortages. In 2005, there were approximately 23 000 students enrolled in VET activities in the ACT. Their training is provided by the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) and more than 100 other Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) in the ACT.

Funding for VET services was around \$77 million in 2005, of which the ACT Government contributed approximately \$58 million.

#### Audit Opinions and Key findings

- Strategic planning and related procedures by relevant agencies provide a reasonable assessment of community and industry needs, but could be strengthened through a more transparent approach to informing stakeholders of potential demand for trainees in each area of VET priority.
- Funding priorities seemed, on the whole, to have reflected the assessed demand for trainees and apprentices; but the process to develop and match VET training priorities to the identified skill shortages may need to be more transparent and robust.
- The Department of Education and Training (DET) has sound processes, although within a limited scope, to ensure that training providers deliver agreed training programs and achieve identified outputs.
- There is little collection of information at a course or provider level about whether trainees achieve outcomes such as employment. It is not currently possible to identify drop-out rates. Such information would help to identify issues of selection of trainees and training quality.

- DET's process of registration and audit of Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) is sound and transparent. However, audits can be improved with a better focus on quality of output and outcomes, in addition to administrative and documentation processes. The provision of feedback to RTOs on their performance can also be improved.
- Student and employer satisfaction rates in the ACT were generally below the Australian average. DET has not thoroughly analysed the reasons for these lower results in the ACT, and hence there was a lack of action to improve these performance measures.
- As employment rates were high in the ACT both before and after training, it was difficult to form a view on the relative effectiveness of VET in the ACT in helping students to get a job.
- Performance measures for DET, while reasonable, do not allow for ease of comparison between delivery by CIT and by other registered training organisations offering similar training services.

## **Recommendations**

The audit made six recommendations. DET agreed or agreed in part to all recommendations.

## **Further Information**

For further information, please contact Rod Nicholas, Director, Performance Audits and Corporate Services on 6207 0833. Copies of the report are available from the ACT Auditor-General's Office (Level 4, 11 Moore Street, Canberra City) and from its website, [www.audit.act.gov.au](http://www.audit.act.gov.au).