

**2000**

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR  
THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING AMENDMENT BILL 2000**

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

**Circulated by Authority of  
Bill Stefaniak MLA  
Minister for Education**

# **VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING AMENDMENT BILL 2000**

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

### **OUTLINE**

The purpose of this Bill is to prevent unauthorised persons from advertising courses conferring higher education awards which have not been accredited by the ACT Accreditation and Registration Council.

Higher education courses provided by non-university providers in the ACT are normally accredited by the ACT Accreditation and Registration Council, established under the Vocational Education and Training Act 1995. However there is currently no regulation actually requiring this. This provides a loophole that does not exist in other eastern seaboard jurisdictions.

The provisions in this bill will close this loophole that enables unauthorised persons to advertise unaccredited higher education courses in the ACT

There is no separate higher education legislation in the ACT, and the Vocational Education and Training Act 1995 makes only limited reference to the regulation of higher education courses in the ACT. The deficiencies in higher education regulation will be addressed in the next twelve months in the context of achieving national consistency in Vocational Education and Training and in Higher Education.

Following national consultation on approaches to achieving national regulatory consistency, further legislation will be proposed to ensure that higher education in the ACT is adequately regulated.

To ensure that there is the required level of expertise in higher education on the Accreditation and Registration Council, it is proposed that up to two additional members with expertise in higher education be appointed to the Council.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications.

### **DETAILS**

Clause 4 defines the term "University" so that clear reference can be made to non-university providers.

Clause 5 amends Section 16 of the Act to include reference to courses in higher education.

Clause 6 prohibits the advertising of vocational education and training courses unless the Accreditation and Registration Council accredits them.

**Clause 7 prohibits the advertising of higher education courses unless the Accreditation and Registration Council accredits them, or they are provided by a University.**

**Clause 8 adds up to two members to the Council to ensure higher education expertise.**