



## Media release

### **Adult Learning Australia Acknowledges Retiring Skills and Training Minister Brendan O'Connor**

Adult Learning Australia today acknowledges the dedication and commitment of retiring Skills and Training Minister Brendan O'Connor to Australia's skills and training sector.

"From the beginning of his term, it was clear that Minister O'Connor had a strong commitment to training and skills development," said Jenny Macaffer, CEO of Adult Learning Australia. "He worked hard to ensure Australians had access to quality education and training to improve their career prospects."

Minister O'Connor played a key role in revitalising the TAFE system and promoting vocational education. "He guided the development of strategies to support the jobs and skills sectors, especially in terms of reinvigorating TAFE," added Ms Macaffer.

He was also a strong advocate for lifelong learning, emphasising essential foundation skills such as adult literacy, numeracy, and digital skills. "Minister O'Connor recognised the importance of these skills in advancing job prospects and training opportunities," said Ms. Macaffer.

"He also understood the broader benefits of lifelong learning, including enhanced social and community connections, as well as improvements in mental and physical well-being," Ms. Macaffer noted.

Adult Learning Australia wishes Minister O'Connor all the best in his retirement from politics and thanks him for his contributions to the sector.

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#### **About Adult Learning Australia**

Adult Learning Australia, operating for 60+ years, is the national peak body for the nonprofit adult and community education (ACE) sector. Its membership encompasses both organisations and individuals from every state and territory, representing the sector's diversity.

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