

AIIA welcomes qualifications review to boost Australian tech sector growth

Sydney, Australia – 24 October 2019 – The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA), the peak member body for the ICT industry, welcomes the publication of an expert review recommending a shake-up of Australia's qualifications systems. The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) review is a positive step toward accelerating growth of Australia's technology sector which contributes \$122 billion, 6.6% of GDP, each year to the national economy, according to AlphaBeta. The AQF was announced today by Minister for Education, Dan Tehan, and Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business Senator, Michaelia Cash. Chaired by Professor Peter Noonan, the AQF report calls for a revised national qualifications architecture across higher education, VET, and senior secondary schools. Among the recommendations is the recognition of shorter form credentials, or microcredentials, used for up-skilling and re-skilling within the education system and the workplace. The AIIA believes microcredentials, among other recommendations in the report, are valuable for the development of in-demand technology and digital skills. The organisation in February called for a cohesive national approach that is needed to raise the standard of digital skills education and training at tertiary education institutions. "We support the Government's initiative and this type of innovative thinking to address the digital skills gap," said AIIA CEO Ron Gauci. "Promoting great fluidity and equal value between VET, higher education and schools through microcredentials will encourage students to combine digital skills with business courses and hands-on experience. "The Government is clearly listening to the industry and responding to its needs by considering reforms that will create new opportunities for Australian students." ENDS About AIIA The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) is Australia's peak representative body and advocacy group for those in the digital ecosystem. Since 1978 AIIA has pursued activities to stimulate and grow the digital ecosystem, to create a favourable business environment for members and to contribute to Australia's economic prosperity. We do this by delivering outstanding member value by providing a strong voice of influence; building a sense of community through events and education; enabling a network for collaboration and inspiration; and developing compelling content and relevant and interesting information. Media Contacts For more information please contact: Jeffrey Coote Tel: (02) 8355 3130 jeffrey@filteredmedia.com.au

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