

12 September 2018

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Over 40 Ni-Vanuatu graduates with internationally recognised qualifications**

More than 40 Vanuatu nationals proudly received Australian qualifications during the Australia Pacific Training Coalition (APTC) graduation ceremony in Port Vila on 12 September.

The new graduates join more than 1800 Vanuatu nationals who have graduated from APTC - Australia's major investment in Post School Education and Training (PSET) in the Pacific region. In keeping with APTC's excellent record of promoting gender equality, more than 50 per cent of graduates were women.

Delivering the keynote address at the ceremony on 12 September 2018, Minister for Education and Training, Honourable Jean Pierre Nirua, congratulated the graduates on their achievement, and encouraged them to share their new skills within the workplace and in their communities.

Minister Nirua acknowledged the ongoing support of the Australian Government to Vanuatu, and congratulated APTC on entering into phase three of its journey.

"The repositioning of APTC by the Australian Government in its next stage will play a greater role in supporting the Pacific to step up the skills agenda in support of jobs, growth and Pacific-led sustainable development," he said.

He added that the Ministry of Education and Training looks forward to working with APTC in ensuring better employment outcomes for Vanuatu graduates in both national and international labour markets.

"Australia's investments are targeted to improve the quality of training, in partnership with government, industry groups and training providers to ensure training is accessible for everyone, and meets workforce demands", said Australian High Commission Chargée d'affaires, Susan Ryle.

The new graduates hold qualifications in a range of courses including leadership and management, air-conditioning and refrigeration, carpentry, commercial cookery, education support, tourism and business.

APTC delivers training to citizens of 14 Pacific island countries from its campuses in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

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