

Dissenting Report by Labor Senators

1.1 Labor Senators provide the following dissenting report on Red Tape (Occupational Licensing).

1.2 Labor Senators reject the premise of the report that occupational licensing reform should start with a presumption against licensing. The inquiry heard strong evidence that occupational licensing is beneficial and necessary to ensure the quality of work performed and the safety of both workers and consumers.

1.3 Labor Senators consider that the holding of a licence also sends a powerful signal to consumers, as to the quality and safety of a provider or service.

1.4 Labor Senators believe that a tripartite system, involving government, business and union representatives, is best placed to consider the quality, skill and safety needs that are inherent in licensing arrangements, and complemented by a risk-based regulatory approach.

Senator Murray Watt

Deputy Chair

