



24 August 2010

Dr Shona Batge  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Batge

### **Supplementary Submission to Senate Enquiry into Industry Skills Councils**

CPSISC was very pleased to see positive comments about Industry Skills Councils in many of the submission lodged including those from State Industry Training Advisory Bodies. However, we note that number 83 by the ACT Construction Industry Training Advisory Council is particularly misleading and wish to make a supplementary submission on a few key issues.

#### **Background**

When CPSISC was formed 7 years ago we formed a Construction and Property Services (CAPS) Network to ensure that State IAB's were kept up to date with national developments and to maximise use of existing networks in getting information out to industry.

CPSISC funds teleconferences with State IAB's every six weeks and covers their costs when meeting with them on an annual basis. We produce a Best Practice Brochure and enclose a recent one featuring an article by CITC on page 10. The idea is to encourage good work and share great ideas. We also sponsor key events such as the ACT Apprenticeship awards held by CITC last week.

CPSISC conducted all of our Workshops on the latest CPC08 training package in the ACT through the CITC and they were well attended by a broad range of industry players. We also conducted an implementation workshop through CITC on 16 March 2009 and it was attended by 26 people. Cost to attend was \$180 which included lunch and a copy of the package. This was run at a loss in order to get providers and industry skilled up on the new package.

#### **Issues**

**Transparency** - CPSISC has established a Continuous Improvement Management System which enables anyone to track a particular issue under consideration and to input into the development process. This can be found under the CPSISC web site. In our teleconference earlier this week we suggested further workshops for those

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IAB's who wanted more information on the system. The committee should note that Alan Waldron formerly of Construction Training Queensland represented State IAB's on the Steering Committee for the review of the Construction package and reported back to other Construction IAB's.

Our business plan is on our website and our key projects are summarised therein. We also produce detailed projects reports at all Construction Industry Advisory Committee Meetings and State IABs have access to them through their participation in those meetings.

Following a presentation to the CPSISC Board meeting by two Construction IAB's on 23 August 2010, CPSISC decided to admit one representative of State IAB's as a full member of the CIAC and PIAC rather than as observer status.

**COAG** -Under the Howard Government CPSISC were instructed to process and endorse a range of lower level qualifications namely the Certificate 2 in Steelfixing, Concreting and Stone-working as well as a Certificate 3 qualification in Low Rise Structural Framing. These were supported by State Training Authorities and the Federal Government but not necessarily by State IAB's. At the time these issues caused considerable duress and some IAB's felt they were being ignored. We are subsequently revising those qualifications which should satisfy all concerned.

#### **INCLUSION OF STATE IAB'S IN PROJECTS**

CPSISC has contracted various State IAB's to run projects and we operate on a panel basis. All State IAB's have been invited previously to participate in the panel. CITC has refused to carry out some work offered to them.

#### **STAFF WITH CONSTRUCTION EXPERIENCE**

CPSISC covers 1.8 million employees and 526,000 enterprises. We only have 15 staff and they are highly skilled at convening workshops and producing world class competency standards. We do this by pulling together many industry professionals including tradespeople. We cover 22 separate industries in property services and the entire construction industry. Being a plumber will not help you sort our Real Estate training issues or Bricklaying matters. We only have 15 staff and they are not tradespersons because they are not what we need to do the work of the Skills Council.

#### **PROPER USE OF FUNDS**

We have provided an audit statement in our first submission which showed our funds were spent properly in accordance with contractual obligations. **Our accounts have been submitted to ASIC each year.** For our 2008/2009 financial year we lodged our financial reports on ASIC Form 388 on 15 December 2009. I can assure the Committee that all of our funds are fully committed and that all funds are spent furthering VET in our industries. It is unfortunate that the failure of the ACT Government to properly support CITC has led to such them feeling like a 'poor

cousin'. CPSISC has declined numerous requests by State Governments to take over State IAB functions in the past.

#### **REPORTING TO STATE IAB'S**

Although we include them in key events we do not necessarily share all information such as full reports from overseas strategic engagements as they are commercial in confidence. We usually provide them with summaries of such work.

#### **SUMMARY**

It hoped that this supplementary submission provides the necessary facts for the Senate Committee to properly consider the matter before them.

Yours sincerely

Lindsay Fraser  
Chair