

August 6th, 2010

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

Dear Dr Batge

Submission to Senate Inquiry on Industry Skills Councils

I wish to make a submission to the Senate's Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee's Inquiry into the Industry Skills Councils. My comments relate specifically to AgriFood Skills Australia which includes the Racing industry in its sector coverage.

AgriFood Skills Australia works with the Racing industry and its enterprises to capture industry intelligence on skills and workforce development needs and to address these needs in consultation with industry and government. Our prime involvement with AgriFood is around the following matters:

- ✚ The review and continuous improvement of the Racing training package and its implementation. The training package underpins the provision of quality apprentice and occupational training across the industry and skills development is now being taken into consideration for licensing purposes.
- ✚ The provision of advice on industry skills and workforce needs and addressing impediments to attracting and retaining people in key areas of shortage. This includes track riders where revised arrangements in skilled migration occupational categories is hampering the industry's business performance.
- ✚ Promoting the benefits of skills development and training to enterprises, and through Vocational Education and Training in Schools and related initiatives seeking to encourage interest in careers in the AgriFood industry, including our industry.

David Hayes, Trainer and significant employer in the industry has membership of AgriFood's Racing Industry Standing Committee which advises the Board on training and broader skills, workforce and policy issues impacting on the industry. This enables the racing industry to have a direct influence on AgriFood's priorities in addressing the industry's needs.

I believe the Racing industry and enterprises are well served by the advice and expertise of AgriFood Skills Australia and commend its support of training package and related skills and workforce development initiatives in support of our industry.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Adams

Workforce Development Manager