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

Dear Dr Batge,

I am writing in response to the current Senate inquiry into Industry Skills Councils and in doing so acknowledge and support the work done by Innovation Business Skills Australia (IBSA).

It is important that there is widespread understanding of the role of Industry Skills Councils. My understanding of this role and their effectiveness has grown since my appointment as Chair of the IBSA Business Services Sector Advisory Committee. IBSA covers a broad range of industry sectors and has managed to develop great relationships with all the key stakeholders in each of those sectors. It has demonstrated its commitment to ensuring equity in terms of access via the annual roadshows and professional development workshops that are offered in metropolitan, regional and remote areas.

The annual environment scan and the validation process that accompanies it is further evidence of the strong links IBSA has with the relevant stakeholders and ensures IBSA is well placed to both develop its own work program according to need and is also well placed to provide advice to Government on issues affecting industry skills needs.

The IBSA constitution clearly identifies the requirements covering the skills and expertise of its Directors. At all times it endeavours to use contemporary best practice in finance and governance. This is well demonstrated by virtue of the inclusion of an independent financial expert on the Finance, Audit and Risk Management committee.

I am also supportive of the leadership role that IBSA has played within the ISC community and the ongoing advice IBSA provides at a national level. I should also note the important role TAA Training and Assessment has played in underpinning skills development within industry and also with the continued development of VET professionals.

It is also worth acknowledging that IBSA provides an effective bridge between industry on the demand side and providers on the supply side. Given the role carried out by IBSA and the multitude of activities it is involved in, it has my continued support for the future.

If you wish to discuss further any of the above please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Patrick Cullen  
Executive Director