

Dr Shona Batge  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Workplace  
Relations  
[eewr.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:eewr.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Secretary

Our organisation, the Furnishing Industry Advisory Committee (FurnITAC), is the Industry Training Advisory Body (ITAB) for the furnishing industry in Victoria. We provide authoritative, independent information on training needs in order to promote skills development and increase take up of training by businesses in the furnishing industry.

FurnITAC has worked with ForestWorks for some time and we are members of its committee and industry liaison network. ForestWorks accurately and reliably represents the views of the furnishing industry in Victoria, to the Victorian Government on skills and employment issues, with the support of industry and the Government.

Continual improvement in up-skilling practices and updating of skills must remain a priority for the furnishing industry and in Victoria extensive collaboration takes place between ForestWorks and the Furnishing industry. The Victorian state Government have contracted ForestWorks to perform the role of the Furnishing Industry Training Advisory Board (ITAB) within ForestWorks.

We have read ForestWorks submission and confirm it is an accurate representation of their role and the effectiveness of the organisation. FurnITAC therefore requests that you accept this letter as an expression of FurnITAC's formal support for the ForestWorks submission to the Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee Inquiry into Industry Skills Councils.

The Victorian furnishing industry is a diverse and specialised sector. The sector encompasses highly skilled vocations such as cabinet making, furniture making, furniture finishing, wood machining, flooring and floor covering, upholstery, mattress and base making, glass and glazing, picture framing, soft furnishing and interior decorating. ForestWorks has a demonstrated history of extensive collaboration with

the Victorian furnishing design and manufacturing industry for a number of years.

FurnITAC supports the vital role ForestWorks undertakes in providing information and advice to its stakeholders which in turn assists the development of a more effective national training system.

Yours sincerely

Regards

*WRBrooks*

**W Richard Brooks**  
**Chair**  
**Furnishing Industry Training Advisory Committee**