

4 August 2010

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 this letter in the context of the current Senate inquiry into Industry Skills Councils. It is important that there is widespread understanding of the role and effectiveness of industry skills councils and this letter has been written to both acknowledge and support the work done by Innovation Business Skills Australia (IBSA).

My understanding of the role and effectiveness has grown since my appointment to the Board. Prior to that time I was familiar with the excellent work performed in the printing industry but not fully aware of the breadth of activities. 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.

Corporate governance is another area where IBSA excels. Its constitution lays out clear 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 very supportive of the leadership role that IBSA has played within the ISC community. Indeed it would be remiss of me not to 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.

Finally it is also worth acknowledging that IBSA provides an effective bridge between industry on the demand side and providers on the supply side.

For all of the above I support the role carried out by IBSA.

Yours sincerely

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Chief Executive Officer

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