

## Skills Tasmania

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File: CEN\_19509/1

4 AUG 2010

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

Dear Dr Batge

### **Inquiry into Industry Skills Councils – Skills Tasmania’s submission**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Inquiry into Industry Skills Councils (ISCs).

Skills Tasmania is Tasmania’s State Training Authority responsible for the administration of vocational education and training in Tasmania. It also provides advice to the Minister on vocational education and training policy, strategy and on skills and workforce development.

Skills Tasmania recognises the contribution ISCs have made towards building a modern vocational education and training system and the positive impact their work has on employers and registered training organisations (RTOs). For example, Skills Tasmania has a very strong relationship with Skills DMC, who has had a permanent presence in Tasmania for the last two years. This relationship has produced initiatives with successful outcomes for Tasmanian businesses, particularly in the mining and civil construction industries.

To date only one of the 11 ISCs has established an effective regional office in Tasmania. The lack of ISC presence in Tasmania limits the benefits of the ISCs to the State. For example, publications such as the ISC Environmental Scans and training packages do not reflect current local industry intelligence and emerging issues.

Many RTOs in Tasmania are micro or small businesses and the cost of ISC professional development workshops is a disincentive or barrier to participation.

This relative invisibility to industry and the training system diminishes the value of the ISC role here.

I also have some concern, based on what industry is telling us, that ISCs are not as responsive as they could be when matters are raised with them.

Tasmania provides a good opportunity for ISCs to:

- identify emerging issues, such as ageing workforce, green skills and the broadband rollout ahead of other states and territories;
- participate in any pilots or case studies; and
- develop solutions or actions that could be applied nationally.

Consequently, there are good reasons for even greater on-the-ground involvement here.

Skills Tasmania would like to see ISCs:

- promoting awareness of their role to industry, enterprises, registered training organisations and other stakeholders;
- developing a presence in Tasmania;
- developing better processes for responding to issues raised by clients;
- providing more workshops on emerging issues such as e-learning/e-assessment, workforce development and sustainability; and
- removing or reducing fees to attend professional development workshops.

Skills Tasmania is committed to improving participation of training in Tasmania and has worked to build good relationships with the ISC's. I believe it can be better and this would produce good outcomes for our mutual clients.

Yours sincerely

Mark Sayer  
GENERAL MANAGER, SKILLS TASMANIA