

Mr Stephen Palethorpe
Secretary
The Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment
By email: eec.sen@aph.gov.au

16 February 2018

Dear Mr Palethorpe

RE: Senate Inquiry into Vocational and education training in South Australia

On Friday, 02 February I appeared before the Committee in relation to the above inquiry.

I would like to clarify the comments I made around Senator Cameron's question regarding Business SA's engagement with the South Australian Government in relation to TAFE SA.

Jenny Briggs (Business SA Executive Director, Employer Solutions and Programs) is a current member of the South Australian Training and Skills Commission and in this role provides employer feedback to the Commission, which advises the Minister of Higher Education and Skills on matters related to skills and workforce development in South Australia. The Commission no longer regulates training providers in South Australia, as these powers were referred to ASQA on 26th March 2012. The Minister attended a number of Training and Skills Commission meetings in 2017, and also attended the South Australian Training Awards and the Australian Training Awards. A briefing by Minister Close regarding TAFESA was attended by Jenny Briggs, on 7 December 2017.

A request for a meeting with Minister Close was made by myself on 12 December 2017. Minister Close's office called within a day or two advising the Minister would like to meet and that they would check availability and respond with the meeting likely to be early January. I received a call from the Minister's office early January (specific date unknown) advising there was an appointment in the diary for the same time as the actual call and asking whether I was attending. I had received no meeting confirmation from the Minister's office and therefore was not able to attend. I asked the Minister's office to check future availability and as of this date, have yet to receive a response or have a meeting with the Minister.

Other meetings held with TAFE SA and the Government occurred as follows:

- Meeting held with TAFE SA Interim CEO, Alexandra Reid, and Chair, Joanne Denley, on 20 December 2017.
- Interim CEO, Alexandra Reid, briefed Business SA's Apprenticeship Support Australia's consultants and senior policy adviser, on 18 January 2018.
- Meeting held with Jon King, Executive Director, Skills and Employment, on 24 January 2018, **not** in December as per Hansard.

It would be much appreciated if you could provide a copy of this correspondence to the Committee members.

Should you or the Committee require any further information please contact me

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Penney
Executive Director, Industry and Government Engagement



Business SA
Chamber of Commerce
and Industry South Australia

ABN 000 14 725 309 328
Level 1, 136 Greenhill Road
Unley South Australia 5061
T: +61 8 8300 0000

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