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Mr. John Carter
Committee Secretary
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations
and Education Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

30 June 2006

Dear Mr. Carter

RE: SUBMISSION TO THE ENQUIRY – PACIFIC REGION CONTRACT LABOUR

You may recall we spoke in May, regarding TAFE Directors Australia making a detailed submission to your Committee's Enquiry. At the same time, TDA has provided much detailed work towards AusAID's management of the proposed Australia Pacific Technical College, ahead of the Prime Minister's visit to the South Pacific Forum in Tonga in October this year. This is work-in-progress, continuing.

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) seeks to recommend that as a result of a good deal of work and advice regarding the Pacific, our Membership of senior CEOs from our selected TAFE colleges and Institutes would be willing to provide some specific advice, information and assistance to your current enquiry into Pacific Region Contract Labour. We congratulate the Committee on this important enquiry, and aware of its timing, trusts this offer of detailed information about casual labour vis-à-vis Pacific contract labour, can be of assistance.

As background, TDA is the peak body representing TAFE colleges and institutes in Australia, with membership across Australian states and territories. Our national office is located in Canberra, and maintains a keen involvement with issues associated with how Australia's TAFE public sector institutes engage with vocational education into the region – both in Asia and the Pacific, and for TAFE institutes dealing with immigrants from the region, requiring up-skilling.

TDA proposes that under the auspices of the Senate Committee, we recommend a half-day Vocational Education Roundtable session is hosted with Senate Officials and Committee Members (Senators) perhaps when Parliament resumes. We submit that this could include a briefing from the Committee on key aspects being discussed, and in return seek from our TAFE management opinions and offers of help for any more specific data or advice to finalise your Committee deliberations.

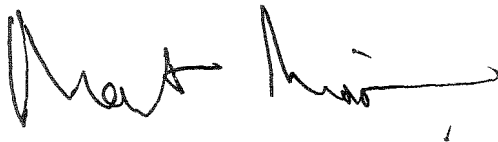
The TAFE sector has unique linkages into rural and regional Australia. Several of our institutes provide an extensive range of training and vocational educational services to the primary and resource industries.

Our Membership has indicated that your Senate Enquiry is an ideal opportunity to signal the critical links between successful operation of farm management and training, and the value of even the most basic OH&S training, to reduce the high degree of farm accidents, and add knowledge and security to rural occupational productivity. As our TAFE colleges and institutes are engaged with AusAID dealing with the Australia Pacific Technical College, we recommend that this session would bring alignment and synergy to the Committee's Report.

I trust this offer of a TAFE Roundtable Session on Farm Management and Issues associated with casual workers would be helpful.

I look forward to your considerations.

Yours sincerely,



MARTIN RIORDAN
Executive Director