

30 September 2014

Queensland Education Accord project team
Department of Education, Training and Employment

By email: education.accord@dete.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

As the state's peak body for small and medium businesses, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) was pleased to attend the Queensland Education Accord Industry Breakfast and the Queensland Education Accord Summit. CCIQ wishes to congratulate the State Government on this initiative and takes this opportunity to provide further feedback to the Department of Education, Training and Employment on the Queensland Education Accord.

CCIQ considers the Queensland Education Accord an invaluable initiative by the Department. CCIQ is a strong advocate for vocational education and training (VET) reform and has long argued that the VET sector can directly support economic growth, productivity and industry competitiveness so long as it provides the skilled workforce required by business.¹ To effectively assist in doing so, the education system must be sufficiently geared towards preparing young Queenslanders for employment.

It is important that our education system provides the foundation skills such as numeracy and literacy, but also looks to employability as a key skill set as well. In a globalising and ever-evolving world predicting jobs of the future is difficult, however the transition from manual to non-manual cognitive jobs is clear. The education sector must ensure that young Queenslanders are equipped with the skills necessary to participate in an increasingly globalised workforce. Key employability skills such as problem-solving, initiative and enterprise, planning, organisation and self-management will be valuable and essential skills for young Australian's to develop during their school years.

CCIQ plays an active role in the development, monitoring and evaluation of education and training policies and programs that impact on business. This is in recognition that growing support for the

¹ For more information on VET and employment see CCIQ submission to the Queensland Skills and Training Taskforce found at:

<https://www.cciq.com.au/assets/Documents/Advocacy/CCIQ-Submission-to-the-Queensland-Skills-and-Training-Taskforce.pdf>

and CCIQ submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment- Inquiry into role of the TAFE system and its operation found at:

<https://www.cciq.com.au/assets/Documents/Advocacy/CCIQ-Submission-to-House-Committee-TAFE.pdf>

development of a comprehensive education and training system is pivotal to the achievement of short and long term economic goals of Australia. This is particularly the case in light of high youth unemployment and declining apprenticeship numbers, where education and training can play a crucial role in increasing the workplace participation of young Queenslanders.

It is noted that there are a number of programs already funded by both state and federal governments designed at developing strategic partnerships between business and communities to foster jobs and skills growth. The Partnership Brokers Program involves over 500 such partnerships in Queensland designed to support young people, Indigenous people, people from a low socio-economic background and people living in remote and rural areas. CCIQ encourages the ongoing improvements being made by the State Government in this space to increase industry engagement so that education and skills development is dynamic and responsive to industry demand.

VET is a suitable and equally important alternative to higher education, and also a pathway to higher education. CCIQ supports the perception change currently underway within the education system in this regard, and considers guidance for school-leavers and young adults essential for ensuring that young Queenslanders are informed of Queensland's current or emerging industries, and the varied career options available, particularly in regional and remote areas of Queensland.

Queensland employers are eager for the education system to be better geared towards preparing young Queenslanders for jobs in our state's current and emerging industries. Accordingly, education system's skills framework needs to be relevant to small, medium and large enterprises and able to support the future needs of Queensland industry.

CCIQ looks forward to release of the draft Education Accord in the coming months.

Yours sincerely,



Nick Behrens
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