

18 December 2019

Commissioner Jonathon Coppel & Commissioner Malcolm Roberts  
Productivity Commission  
Review: National Skills and Workforce Development Agreement  
*Submitted via online portal*

Dear Commissioners,

Des Crowe and I appreciated the time we had with you both today to discuss a range of topics relating to your Review into National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development. In addition to the comments made by Des Crowe, I would also like to state the following:

*Funding for Language Literacy and Numeracy*

As we detailed during our meeting, when considering the VET system, the Northern Territory does have a high percentage of aboriginal people, particularly in regional and remote areas.

From our observations and discussions with the NT Government and RTOs we believe there needs to be more funding allocated to Language Literacy and Numeracy. We have seen Federal Government funding in this space come and go, e.g. the WELL program, whereas if the Language Literacy and Numeracy funding was inbuilt into the VET system, it would provide certainly for providers to offer these services to its students.

*Incentive Funding*

Hospitality NT provides quantitative data to the Northern Territory Government on the skill and staffing shortages, through their NT Skilled Occupation Priority List project – providing data on where the demand is for skilled workers, in addition to our knowledge of business sentiment, growth areas, new projects etc.

It appears the Federal Government sometimes makes decisions on incentives programs, without considering the 'real-time' data available on where the incentives should be directed.

For example, the Federal Government announced incentive payments for businesses and apprentices in skills shortage occupations, which included bakers and pastry chefs but not chefs or cooks. Who provided the intel for this decision? Did they consult with industry? In the NT we have long-standing and on-going shortages in chefs and cooks but have seen a significant decrease in demand for bakers, as the large multinational stores dominate, and smaller bakeries have closed.

Please contact me should you require any further information.  
Kind regards,

Sarah Andrews

**Communications and Project Manager**

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