

27 November 2001

Mr Mike Woods
Productivity Commission
Independent Review of the Job Network
PO Box 80
BELCONNEN ACT 2616

Dear Mr Woods

I refer to the submission sent to you regarding the Independent Review of the Job Network which was released on the Commission website.

We are very proud of the success of the Job Network and of the commitment of Job Network members to serving our community. Our submission was aimed at assisting the Commission in making recommendations to strengthen the Job Network.

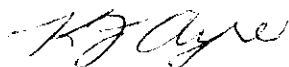
In the submission, there were comments about the Star Ratings promoting bad and possibly unethical practices by some Job Network members involving payments to employers in return for 15 hours employment. By way of clarification, I would like to point out that I was not intending to suggest that there are existing unethical practices by particular Job Network members.

Instead, I simply wished to express the view that I did not agree with the use of wage subsidies to employers in relation to Job Matching. It is my view that payments of this type do not promote the Job Network as a quality provider of services to employers and candidates. The attachments to our submission were only to serve as examples of this.

You may be aware of a newspaper article which appeared in the Brisbane Courier Mail on 26 November relating to this and other submissions to Independent Review of the Job Network. Enclosed is a copy of a letter to the Editor expressing our concerns about this article.

The purpose of this correspondence is to clarify the statement in my submission. I request that this correspondence be included with our original submission on the Commission website.

Yours faithfully



Kevin Ayre
General Manager

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27 November 2001

The Editor in Chief
The Courier Mail
Campbell Street
BOWEN HILLS QLD

Dear Sir

We are writing to you in relation to a prominent article on page 3 of the November 26 edition of the Courier Mail headed "Job agencies 'rot' fee system". The form and content of the article concern us in two respects.

First, the article features a photograph of our Managing Director, Sarina Russo. You must be aware of the practice of many readers who simply read headlines and perhaps the opening few paragraphs of an article. Any such reader would reasonably conclude that Sarina Russo and this company have been implicated in a "rot" of the Job Network fee system.

Second, the headline and text of the article suggest that Ms Russo was interviewed by your reporter and used expressions such as "rot" and stated that certain agencies were offering jobs "so they can pocket half of the \$350 placement fee for themselves". In fact, Ms Russo was not interviewed for the story and therefore did not use these expressions. Nor did the submission made by Sarina Russo Job Access to the Productivity Commission which was obtained by your reporter and quoted in part.

In the submission, there were comments about the Job Network Star Ratings promoting bad and possibly unethical practices by some Job Network members involving payments to employers in return for 15 hours employment. By way of clarification, I would like to point out that I was not intending to suggest that there are existing unethical practices by particular Job Network members.

The submission to the Productivity Commission simply wished to express the view that I did not agree with the use of wage subsidies to employers in relation to Job Matching. It is our view that payments of this type do not promote the Job Network as a quality provider of services to employers and candidates.

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We look forward to your proposals as to how you intend to make amends for the unfortunate and highly damaging inclusion of Ms Russo's photo in conjunction with the headline, and what you intend to do to clarify that Ms Russo did not participate in any interview, as the article suggests.

Yours faithfully


Kevin Ayre
General Manager