



D18/0184678

Ms Nicola Cusworth  
Economic Review Authority  
Gordon Stephenson House  
Level 2, 140 William Street  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ms Cusworth

Nicky,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the *Inquiry into reform of business licensing in Western Australia* draft report.

The Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD) is included in this review because the Vocational Education and Training (VET) training contract for apprentices and trainees is considered a business licence.

This response is based on the key recommendations relating to legislative review, continuous improvement, customer input, and the proposed reporting requirements.

### **Legislative review**

The *Vocational Education and Training Act 1996* states that a review of the operation and effectiveness of the Act must be conducted every five years.

The administration of the apprenticeship system and VET training contracts are included in this review. Regularly reviewing the VET Act and its subsidiary legislation ensures that the apprenticeship system is contemporary and meets the needs of stakeholders.

### **Continuous improvement and customer input**

Apprenticeship reform is driven at both national and state levels. DTWD works closely with various stakeholders to ensure that the apprenticeship system is streamlined and responsive to client needs and economic cycles. Key stakeholders include Commonwealth and State government agencies, the State Training Board (STB), Industry Training Councils, unions, training providers, employers and apprentices/trainees.

DTWD has an ongoing regulatory and policy reform agenda and makes regular amendments to policy and legislation.

The *Apprenticeship and Traineeship Policy* has been reviewed and now provides a simpler and more coherent outline of the arrangements that govern the apprenticeship system. This policy was developed with stakeholder input.

In addition, since 2009, Part 4 of the *Vocational Education and Training (General) Regulations 2009* has been amended five times. These changes provided clarity for clients and supported compliance with the objects of the VET Act to provide an effective and efficient VET system for the immediate and future needs of industry and the community.

The VET Act also identifies the establishment of a STB to provide a link between specific industry developments and vocational education and training. The Department works collaboratively with the STB to develop policy to ensure the availability of appropriately skilled labour in Western Australia. For example, the STB recently consulted extensively and released a report on *Strategies to grow apprenticeships and traineeships in Western Australia*. The Department participated in these consultations and will be responsible for implementing many of the findings.

Another example of continuous business improvement is the introduction in May 2018 of the Western Australian Apprenticeship Management System (WAAMS) to streamline data processes. WAAMS allows stakeholders, including employers and apprentices 24 hour online access to manage training contracts. The Department will continue to identify further streamlining opportunities.

The Department's ongoing apprenticeship reform agenda aligns with the proposed recommendations of ERA's draft report.

### **Reporting requirements**

DTWD acknowledges that it is important for agencies to review their processes to ensure that business licences remain effective and meet their intended purpose.

DTWD currently operates under an outcome based management framework. The framework was developed in consultation with the Department of Treasury and the Office of the Auditor General. The effectiveness and efficiency indicators reflect a broad range of the Department's services, including the administration of VET training contracts. This information is provided in DTWD's annual report.

DTWD would be able to comply with the reporting recommendations of the draft report.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comment. Should you require further information please contact Dr Ross Kelly, Director, Policy Planning and Research by email at [Ross.Kelly@dtwd.wa.gov.au](mailto:Ross.Kelly@dtwd.wa.gov.au) or by telephone on 6551 5260.

Yours sincerely



ANNE DRISCOLL  
DIRECTOR GENERAL

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