

Victorian Skills Commission
ABN 89 290 258 378

2 Treasury Place,
East Melbourne VIC 3002
PO Box 266D, Melbourne 3001

Telephone 03 9637 2642
Fax 03 9637 3641
Email vsc@diird.vic.gov.au
Web www.vsc.vic.gov.au

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via email: stronger.futures@edumail.vic.gov.au

**STRONGER FUTURES FOR ALL YOUNG VICTORIANS: A DISCUSSION
PAPER ON THE YOUTH TRANSITIONS SYSTEM**

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this submission from the Victorian Skills Commission (VSC) on the *Stronger futures for all young Victorians: A discussion paper on the youth transitions system*.

Further information is available from the Manager of the VSC Secretariat on keith.gove@diird.vic.gov.au or 9637 3784.

Effective career education and accurate career information are crucial to young people making informed choices in a demand-led education and training system. All young people should have access to such services. Not all education and training providers provide such services and adequate quality 'safety-net' services should be accessible to all young people as an entitlement.

The perceptions of many young people, their parents and career teachers do not reflect contemporary industry opportunities. Many perceptions of industry are out-of-date or worse-case examples. Many industry sectors have expressed difficulty in attracting new entrants to their workforce. Industry has an important role to play in promoting accurate and realistic appreciation of current career paths.

Reference throughout the discussion paper to the 'hands on' value of the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning overlooks an important distinction between two purposes of vocational learning:

- as a 'high excellence' vocational pathway that leads to well-regarded, high-level vocational outcomes respected by industry; and
- as a way of engaging young people who may otherwise be disengaged from education, training and the workforce.

These are quite different cohorts of young people and conflating vocational learning into a single purpose may lead to inappropriate delivery options. The pathway of 'high excellence' vocational outcomes should be explicitly catered for.

The education and training system should support providers to link with enterprises to provide workplace-based learning opportunities. This is particularly important in regional communities with major single industries.

The VSC could assist in facilitating a coordinated approach to career information with links to industry, based on its relationships with Industry Training Advisory Bodies (ITABs) and its role in providing a consolidated industry information service within *Securing Jobs for Your Future – Skills for Victoria*.

Yours sincerely

Keith Gove
Manager, VSC Secretariat