

MEDIA RELEASE

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A stronger career focus required for an effective *Skills for a Sustainable Future* program

Access to a comprehensive range of career services for all Australians throughout their lives is an important and much needed addition for the government's *Skills For a Sustainable Future* (Budget Announcement 2010-2011) according to newly elected Career Industry Council of Australia President, Bernadette Gigliotti.

"The EU is introducing a similar program *New Skills for New Jobs*", said Ms Gigliotti. "This program is underpinned by lifelong access to career guidance", she said

The Commonwealth government is a strong supporter of the provision of high quality career services and has encouraged the Career Industry Council to facilitate national standards and to improve access. "We are making strong progress but government must avoid a situation that results in poor training choices and poor outcomes because of a lack of access to good careers advice," said Ms Gigliotti.

"We need to be very careful that we don't establish a sub class of employees and disengaged youth moving from job to job with no career prospects and no idea of how to develop career management skills; managed by unqualified staff" Ms Gigliotti said.

"Our solution is that the dollars attached to providing training are also attached to career management skills - ensuring that there is a responsibility on the part of **all** providers (including - universities, TAFE's, RTO's and a broader range of Transition programs supported by DEEWR & States and Territories) to also provide quality career services as part of their contracts and that it is clearly articulated in the KPI's", she said.

"There are more than 4000 qualified career practitioners in Australia", said Ms Gigliotti.

As a parent with two beautiful daughters with a disability, Ms Gigliotti said new arrangements announced last night need to go further and provide a guarantee that people with disabilities are assisted by qualified career practitioners to navigate the training and education systems.

"Our challenge for governments and for the broader community is asking: "Are we satisfied with the career development service currently available not only for our young people but for all Australians", Ms Gigliotti said.

While government is well intentioned with its *Skills for a Sustainable Future* program we should be asking ourselves what needs to happen to ensure that career development is the foundation of this program so that all those taking part have the opportunity to develop the career management skills they need to manage their future.

"Next week (17 – 23 May 2010) is National Career Development Week (NCDW), an awareness week that encourages all Australians to take control of their future. Details of events across the country and career information are available at www.ncdw.com.au", said Ms Gigliotti.

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