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Press Release National Career Development Week

Let's get Australia Working

Are there enough qualified career practitioners in Australia to get this week's budget announcements about labour market programs into action? The peak body has doubts.

In the lead up to National Career Development Week (18-24 May) President of the Career Industry Council of Australia (CICA), Mike Geeves, says that many government initiatives have not lived up to their full potential to help young Australians in transition.

"Too often, organisations funded to deliver career transition services use underqualified staff despite courses being available and guidelines and standards in place. Whether the role is pathway planning, career development, transition or coaching, our clients deserve trained staff. Specialist career counsellors should have a post graduate certificate in line with the standards set down by CICA", Mike Geeves said.

In addition, career information and career services should be developed in accordance with government frameworks and career industry guidelines, and the Australian Blueprint for Career Development.

"With more than \$644 million to spend on career and transition programs, the government has the opportunity to achieve world's best practice. Evidence from recent government reports clearly shows that effective career services are important for young people and CICA is committed to working with government to achieve effective outcomes", Mike Geeves said.

"New initiatives need to focus on real services that are of real benefit to Australians and the economy and achieve outcomes that improve national training and employment outcomes. We can't waste any money", he added.

Recent OECD reports show that Australia ranks 18th out of 29 OECD countries for high school completion rates. Rates are poorer for 19-year-olds in regional and remote locations and for indigenous students across Australia. The situation is even worse for those undertaking trade training with nearly half the apprentices who start failing to complete their training.

"We need to get it right this time and create a truly world class range of career and transition services", Mike Geeves said. "That is why we welcome the government's initiative and are committed to supporting reform."

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