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NATIONAL CAREERS HELPLINE

Press release (30 Jan 2009)

The Career Industry Council of Australia calls on the Australian government to broaden existing career services to support Australians affected by the global financial crisis

Today, the Career Industry Council of Australia (CICA) President, Mike Geeves called on the Australian government to expand career services to support all Australians **affected by the global financial crisis**.

Specifically, CICA proposes that the government immediately implement a national careers helpline to provide information, career counselling and other services to support Australians **to make successful transitions to new opportunities in work and learning**.

“We are particularly keen to ensure that Australians living in **rural and remote** communities have access to effective career services”, Mike Geeves said. At present career services for adults are very limited.

CICA believes that there is potential to adapt and add to existing services to implement a national careers helpline almost immediately.

“National careers helplines have **proven to be effective** in New Zealand and the UK for all age groups and particularly for adults. Callers can get advice on their applications, study and employment opportunities and to work with a qualified career practitioner to assist them to **develop strategies to find their next opportunity**”, he said.

“In fact, the OECD has previously indicated that Australia needs to introduce a careers helpline”, Mike Geeves said.

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As the national peak body, the Career Industry Council of Australia's vision is to enhance participation and productivity by advocating the individual, social and economic benefits of quality career development for all Australians.