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**P & S Needham
Sub Contractor Bricklayers
102 Gilmore Road
Queanbeyan NSW 2620
02 62970224
ABN. 73069779287
28th May, 2007**

Dear Mr Greyson

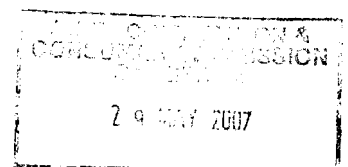
I am writing to you in regard to my recent experience with the ABBTF, Australian Brick and Block Laying Training Foundation. An organisation I only recently found out existed, established to assist with the training of Australian apprentice's. May I here by emphasise the two words Australian Apprentices.

About 8 weeks ago I was contacted by Mr Roger Lowrey, a liason officer with the Construction Industry Council in the ACT, who told me that I could apply for ABBFT Apprentice Direct Employment Incentive Grant because of employing an apprentice bricklayer in the ACT and that he would be sending an application form to me to fill out and return to him, which I did. Along with my bank details and an invoice for \$2200, documents of which i have enclosed with this letter. Two weeks later I was invited to go to the Anslie Football Club, ACT for an information night organised by the ABBFT along with other builders and contractors who employed Bricklaying apprentices. They explained their charter and the responsibility they had in discharging the monies received from the levy's on brick and block manufacterers to promote the intake of apprentice bricklayers in Australia.

It was at this meeting that I found out that this scheme had been in existence since 1998 and that the last nine years money had been accumulated from the levy's placed upon the brick and block manufacturers. After contacting Roger Lowrey to find out what was happening to the funds he then told me that I was not eligible for these benefits as my apprentice was signed up a year earlier than their starting date. We both thought this was unfair as this scheme had been in existence for the past nine years and that the apprentices in the ACT had not known or benefited from the levy's placed on local brick and block manufacturers who had contributed for nine years to a scheme that had withheld these monies from the ones the monies were intended for.

I then spoke to Vince Ball, the director of the CITC who informed me that they were now going to pay the claim, only to be told the day after that they had once more changed their minds and were now not going to pay which is where it stands at this moment of time.

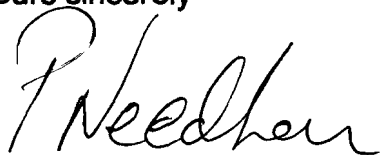
I felt and still feel due to the fact that the organisation has been in existence for 9 years that an injustice has been done to past and present apprenticeship arrangements in ACT and that monies channelled from brick and block manufacturers to the ABBTF to be used for in part ACT Apprenticeship Scheme has been misappropriated, not being used for it's intended purpose.



I then decided to approach Joclyn Valry ACT Dept of Education & Training who in turn put me onto you. Minister Andrew Barr's office, who in turn put me onto the ACCC in speaking to Casper in ACCC advised me along with Roger Lowrey to write you this letter. Could you please use the powers you have at your disposal to look into this serious situation.

Thank you for your consideration of this information and hoping there will be a positive outcome.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Needham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "N".

Peter Needham

INVOICE/STATEMENT

92

Date 12.4.07

To ABBTF 9/0 CITC
CANBERRA.

From P.M. + S.J. NEEDHAM
BRICKLAYERS

ABN
No. 73069779287

Quantity	Description	Price	\$	*
	CLAIM FOR THE APPRENTICE DRAIN EMPLOYMENT INCENTIVE			
	FOR APPRENTICE DAVID NEEDHAM 1ST YEAR	\$ 2.000		
	GST		200	
	TOTAL	\$ 2.200		

SALES TAX
TOTAL \$

OLYMPIC

Nellaura

From: "Roger Lowry" <roger.l@iimetro.com.au>
To: "Nellaura" <Nellaura@bigpond.com>
Sent: Monday, 21 May 2007 4:20 PM
Subject: RE: invoice from Peter Needham

Good afternoon Peter

Re: Invoice 12/04/07 \$2,200 David Needham
ABBTF Apprentice Direct Employment Incentive

Confirming our telephone conversations on Wednesday 16 May 2007 and today, I can confirm that your request for payment under the Australian Brick & Blocklaying Training Foundation Ltd, Apprentice Direct Employment Incentive, has been turned down.

I have discussed your invoice personally with Geoff Noble General Manager of the ABBTF. He advised me you did not qualify for funding as your apprentice commenced employment with you, on the 14/02/05.

The ABBTF have advised formally advised my office (Construction Industry Training Council) that no applications for apprentices who were 'signed on' prior to 1 January 2006 will be processed.

Your question of increasing your invoice amount to \$4,400 (based on \$2,200 per year incentive) is a valid one, as your apprentice is now in his 3rd year of his apprenticeship, but the ABBTF have instructed the CITC not to process either invoice due to the 1 January 2006 requirement.

I discussed with Geoff Noble your concerns regarding NSW Brick and Blocklayer employers being able to access funding for their apprentices prior to 1 January 2006, but he advised me this matter was not for discussion, their policy is firm.

I understand your frustration of paying into an ACT Apprenticeship Training Fund for so many years and not being able to access the funds, but the ABBTF have set their policy.

I am sorry I am unable to help you any further and thank you for your patience in this matter.

Kind regards

Roger Lowry
Industry Liason Officer
Construction Industry Training Council
Bradfield Street, Downer ACT 2600
Tel: (02) 6241 3977
Fax: (02) 6241 3262
Mobile: 0400 003 514
roger.l@iimetro.com.au

—Original Message—

From: Nellaura [mailto:Nellaura@bigpond.com]
Sent: Friday, 13 April 2007 7:25 AM
To: roger.l@iimetro.com.au
Subject: invoice from Peter Needham



New Apprentice Incentives for Bricklayers and Builders!

Financial incentives of \$6,000 are now available to bricklayers and builders on hiring new apprentice bricklayers in the Australian Capital Territory.

Good quality young people are ready and keen to start an apprenticeship and add value to your business. Many have completed Step Out Programs in bricklaying in schools.

The incentives are provided by the Australian Brick & Blocklaying Training Foundation Ltd (ABBTF) and are in addition to Federal Government subsidies.

ABBTF financial incentives are available for signing on a new apprentice yourself (\$6,000) or through a Group Training Company (\$8,000) (see details over).

For more information contact ABBTF –

Ph: 02 6241 3977 or 0407 269 691

Email: vince.b@iimetro.com.au

Visit: www.becomeabricklayer.com.au

Supported by Brick and Block
Manufacturers of Australia

Apprentice Wages Support Scheme for Bricklayers and Builders

Australian Capital Territory

March 2007

The ABBTF has announced a new scheme to subsidise bricklayers and builders in ACT who directly employ a new apprentice up to the value of \$6,000. The incentive will be paid on completion of Year 1 - \$2,000, on completion of Year 2 - \$2,000, on completion of Year 3 - \$2,000. The scheme takes effect immediately and applies to apprentices commencing from 1 January 2006.

This ABBTF initiative is a major step to increase the number of apprentices in ACT and makes a new apprentice more affordable to employers.

Conditions of the scheme include:

- Employers must register with ABBTF within six months of the apprentice commencement date.
- The apprentice must be employed under a contract of training, attend training at an approved RTO and achieve satisfactory results for their year level.
- Employment terms and conditions are in accordance with the relevant award.
- ABBTF has the discretion to allocate the subsidy with a change of employer.
- Excludes apprentices recommencing after initial commencement prior to 2006.
- The full benefit will be paid if the apprentice completes the apprenticeship on early release.
- Support for future years is subject to ongoing company and market levy contributions.
- Claim forms will be made available prior to the completion of each year level.

The scheme is funded by the current levy on bricks and blocks and matching contributions from clay brick and concrete block manufacturers.

Bricklayers and builders wishing to employ an apprentice through a group training company can also benefit from ABBTF subsidies.

ABBTF funding enables group training companies to reduce their charge out rates by \$8,000 over the apprenticeship term.

All apprentice employment subsidies are in addition to the Federal Government benefits.

For further details of the scheme please contact Vince Ball on 02 6241 3977 or 0407 269 691.