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Empowering
Communities to
Grow

FILE No:
DOC:
MARS/PRISM:

01/04/08
David Hatfield
A/g General Manager
Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
GPO Box 3131
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Sir

**Applications for Authorisation by Job Futures Ltd
A91084, A91085, 25th March 2008**

I am writing in support of Job Futures applications for Authorisation and Interim Authorisation.

Education Centre Gippsland (ECG) is a not for profit community managed organisation that is structured as a Company Limited by Guarantee. The business of ECG is to create opportunities for people to grow and develop within a learning environment.

ECG has been delivering programs and services for over thirty years. It is an organisation that is recognised for its commitment to the communities in which it operates and has well developed networks throughout those communities.

ECG is governed by a Board of Directors, who as individuals and as a Board, are committed to developing the social and economic sustainability of individuals and communities through the provision of learning and employment related programs and services.

ECG provides an extensive range of education and training, employment, career and transition opportunities to the community. The organisation engages with communities to ensure that its programs and services are relevant and appropriate to the needs and wishes of individuals, businesses and communities.

ECG has been a member of Job Futures since 2002.

The market for government funded employment services is extremely competitive. The contractual and performance management arrangements that operate in the sector are complex and changing. Since its creation in 1998, it has become harder for small-medium size organisations to enter and

CAMPUS LOCATIONS

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**McMillan Campus
(Rural Industries)**

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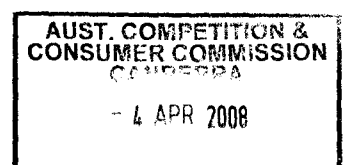
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retain a place in the market – particularly in Job Network. Yet these organisations play an important role in ensuring that services for disadvantaged people meet the specific needs of local communities.

My organisation delivers a range of local programs and services to our community which are important to community well being. These programs include the Youth Employment Program in Drouin, the Active Citizenship Program across Southern Gippsland, community VCAL and the Workplace Participation Programs in the Latrobe Valley and in South Gippsland. We are able to link these initiatives with our employment programs, delivered as part of Job Futures.

As a national provider, Job Futures is able to tender for and deliver programs that are nation or Statewide. This enables organisations like mine to participate in delivery of these programs where otherwise we would not be able to do so. For example we were able to deliver the Correctional Services Employment Placement Program for Men in the Latrobe Valley. This enabled us to build strong relationships with Correctional Services Victoria and Victoria Police and to continue working with them on designing local solutions to local issues.

Job Futures unique collaborative arrangement enables organisations like ECG to deliver quality services while retaining their local focus and identity. We are able to access resources through Job Futures (like on line reporting tools, training and support) which, as a lone provider, we could not.

ECG supports this application for authorisation and believes that the continued operation of the Job Futures model contributes to a more diverse market for government funded employment services.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bernadette O'Connor', is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Bernadette O'Connor
CEO
ECG

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