

INNER WEST SKILLS CENTRE INC



25 April 2008

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.

Inner West Skills Centre has offices in Burwood and Auburn and we have been providing services to unemployed and disadvantaged people for over 320 years. The demographics of this area mean we have a high proportion of clients who are of mature age or from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. We also provide a specialist service to the deaf and hearing impaired and conduct several youth projects. Our Board of Management is committed to serving the most disadvantaged members of our community and our ability to do this has been enhanced by our membership of Job Futures since 1997.

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 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. We are a Registered Training Organisation, a specialist Job Network Service for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired and

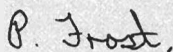
we conduct various State and Commonwealth funded Youth Projects. We are able to link these initiatives with our employment programs, delivered as part of Job Futures.

As a national provider, Job Futures is able to tender for and deliver programs that are national 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 deliver the Green Corps programme – which engages 17-20 year olds in environmental projects – under sub contract to Job Futures in our community. Job Futures Ltd is contracted to deliver this across NSW, ACT, NT and Queensland.

Job Futures unique collaborative arrangement enables organisations like Inner West Skills Centre Inc to deliver quality services while retaining our local focus and identity. We are able to access resources through Job Futures such as on line reporting tools, training and support which, as a lone provider, we could not.

Inner West Skills Centre 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



Patricia Frost
CEO