

3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Australasian Association of Language Companies (AALC) Inc. would like to congratulate the ACCC on taking on board issues as presented by Professionals Australia in their submission dated 23/12/13.

The AALC represents the interests of language services providers in Australia and New Zealand. It acts as an independent, collective voice for a highly competitive industry in the face of challenges on commercial, political and economic fronts. As the peak representative body for language services companies, we bring members together to allow them to positively influence the commercial, technical and regulatory environment of the language services industry.

AALC membership is open to all organisations involved in the language services industry in Australia and New Zealand. Our members range from SMEs to large corporations. The AALC's aim is to develop strong links with language professionals, business community, government and industry stakeholders. AALC members have a commitment to upholding professional standards and development of language industry excellence by:

PROMOTING FAIR COMPETITION  
between all language companies;

UPHOLDING AND SUPPORTING  
the professional interests, status and rights of all association members;

PROVIDING A FORUM  
for exchange of information;

PROMOTING AND ADVANCING  
the important role of language services;

EXPLORING AND DEVELOPING  
Industry best practices;

ADVOCATING  
for the interests of its members

As the representative body for language services providers in Australia, the AALC would like to take part in the forthcoming deliberations and to contribute to the improvement of the language industry in Australia.

Herewith we would like to submit the following on behalf of the AALC in opposition to the grant of authorisation sought by Professionals Australia:

Professionals Australia seeks to represent translators and interpreters, regardless of whether they are employees or independent contractors. While the AALC wholeheartedly supports efforts made to improve the working conditions of employees from all professions, including translators and interpreters, we do not believe translators and interpreters working as independent contractors should be represented by a union. They are small businesses that operate in the economic market. As such, we believe any collective bargaining on their behalf would be against the principles of free market economy.

The AALC believes that Professionals Australia should not be granted the authorisation to represent translators and interpreters working as independent contractors, but supports its efforts to represent employees of the profession. The AALC does not concede that any identified public benefit will result from the grant of the authorisation sought by Professionals Australia.

As an interested party, the AALC is committed to the future of the profession and would welcome the possibility of contributing further to the discussion.

Kind regards,



Tea Dietterich  
**President, AALC Inc.**