

*Dr Richard Chadwick  
General Manager, Adjudication Branch  
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission*

*By email: adjudication@acc.gov.au*

Dear Sir

**Re: A91493 & A91494 – Job Futures Limited - Submission**

I am writing on behalf of Access Community Group Ltd in support of Job Futures application for Revocation and Substitution of Authorisations and Interim Authorisation.

Access Community Group has been a member of Job Futures since 2002.

Access Community Group was established in 1987. It is located in Corrimal and delivers services across the Illawarra, South Coast and Southern Highlands. It has traditionally delivered services such as skillshare, JPET, Youth Pathways, Youth Connections, Green Jobs Corps etc and is an RTO. In recent years it has started delivery of a specialty Disability Employment Services contract. It currently has a \$1.8 mill turn over and employs 15FTE. Access Community Group is charity who's aim is to create opportunities for people to engage in education, employment and their community.

The founding members of Job Futures developed the co-operative tendering model out of a belief that local community organisations play an important role in ensuring that services for disadvantaged people meet the specific needs of local communities; however, on their own, they would not be able to compete effectively in the (then) new open market for government employment services.

This has proved to be the case - with each new contract round the market has become tighter with a decreasing number of providers awarded businesses and a shift to larger organisations, making it harder for small-medium size organisations to gain or retain a place in the market. The Job Futures model has enable a range of community organisations to deliver employment services focused on their local community and bring some diversity to the market.

Until 2012 Access Community Group did not deliver main stream employment services; however, Job Futures successful co-operative tendering for brokered programs such as apprenticeship programs and environmental/skills development programs has enabled us to consistently provide much needed services in our area which has a high youth unemployment rate (16.4% vs national average 13.88%). We are an ongoing provider of

environmental projects under Green Corps, National Green Jobs Corps and an approved delivery agent for Job Futures for the new Green Army Programme. These projects assist young people develop valuable work skills, while at the same time benefiting the community by addressing/improving local environmental issues.

This ongoing business revenue has been critical to the organisation's sustainability and capacity. In the 2012 Disability Employment Services tender, Access Community Group was successful in gaining business through Job Futures co-operative model, drawing on Job Futures and its network track record in DES, along with our own specialist expertise. We deliver specialist Youth and Mental Health services in the Wollongong ESA providing much needed support to highly disadvantaged people in our community.

The contractual and performance management arrangements of DES are complex and challenging. Job Futures provided assistance in implementing the contract. The ongoing support available including delivery resources, robust compliance systems and business advice has enabled us to build up our DES business achieving strong performance in gaining employment outcomes for our clients and over time contributing to our organisation's sustainability.

As a small provider we appreciate being part of a network where we can share knowledge and expertise to improve our services.

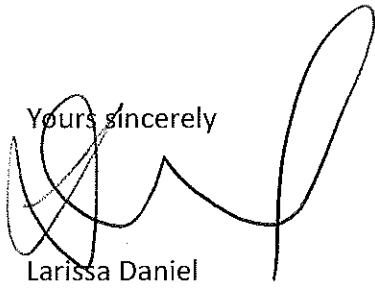
We are able to link our employment program, delivered as part of Job Futures, with our other services, providing a rounded service for our clients and bringing benefit to the community. These additional services include:

Accredited Training, Skills for Education and Employment program, Work and Development Program, Community Gardens, Family and community Engagement program, Building Capacity for Employment program etc.

Access Community Group acknowledges that the strength of the Job Futures model is underpinned by the cooperative approach of the members to achieve a common goal. We support the principle that in order to gain the benefit of the co-operative, from time to time the individual organisation may need to forgo some freedom for the greater good, as per the non-compete clauses contained in Job Futures relevant documents.

Access Community Group supports this application for authorisation (and interim authorisation) and believes that the continued operation of the Job Futures co-operative tendering arrangements contribute to a more diverse market for government funded employment services, at the same time enabling member organisations to continue to provide a range of services that bring benefit to our clients and local communities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larissa Daniel'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Larissa Daniel  
Chief Executive Officer