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Ms Amanda Bresnan MLA

Chair

Standing Committee on Education, Training and Youth Affairs

Legislative Assembly for the ACT

GPO Box 1020

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Bresnan

Re: Annual and financial reports 2008-09

I write to follow up a question asked by Ms Meredith Hunter at the Committee's hearing on 4 December, examining the annual report of the Canberra Institute of Technology.

Ms Hunter asked:

I have a question on contestability. You did mention earlier that there is going to be 50 per cent government funding and you have set up 50 per cent from other sources. We are going into a different environment with a lot of contestability. The CIT has been making a lot of good inroads particularly into green training, sustainability and so forth. Is that what the institute will continue to do, to look at where they can stand out from the rest of the market? Do you intend to really strengthen those sustainable areas within the institute? What other ones might you look at? You mentioned forensics before.

The answer to Ms Hunter's question is as follows:

CIT has been adapting for some years to a more contestable environment, and this has included being more attuned to industry needs, both current and developing. One area of significant growth has been a wide range of industries and skills based on climate change. CIT now offers four environmentally-specific programs:

- Certificate IV in Renewable Energy
- Course in Renewable energy – Statement of Attainment
- Diploma of Ecology and Environmental Management;
- Diploma in Sustainability.

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CIT and the ACT Department of Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water have jointly developed training options for plumbing apprentices as a response to the increasing demand for skilled solar energy trades people.

CIT has been invited by the Housing Industry Association to enter into a GreenSmart Regional Partnership. HIA GreenSmart is a voluntary, hands-on approach to building that focuses on educating builders, designers, product manufacturers and consumers about the benefits of an environmentally responsible approach to business.

With funding from the ACT Government, CIT is building a Sustainable Training House at its Bruce Campus, to provide training in retro-fitting existing housing stock to achieve more efficient energy use. This will be completed early in 2010.

CIT also received \$6.18 million from the Federal Government to construct a Sustainability Hub at Bruce Campus, opening in mid 2010. The Hub will be a pioneering, purpose-built facility for hands-on green skills training in emerging sustainable technologies.

CIT has also joined with the University of Canberra and the Australian Federal Police to establish the National Centre for Forensic Studies, positioning the Institute well to offer training in a field in which career opportunities are expanding.

CIT will continue to not only be responsive to but anticipate industry and community skill needs .

Yours sincerely



Andrew Barr MLA
Minister for Education and Training

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