



Ms Yvette Berry
Chair
Select Committee on Regional Development
ACT Legislative Assembly
London Circuit
Canberra ACT 2601



A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE	
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Dear Ms Berry

Re: Inquiry into Regional Development

Thank you for the opportunity to provide some information to the Committee regarding the work of the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) particularly in relation the provision of education and training to the surrounding regions of NSW.

CIT is the major provider of Vocational Education and Training (VET) in the ACT and surrounding region. CIT supports learning and development opportunities across the breadth of the community and is a significant stakeholder in supporting marginalised and disenfranchised members of the community.

CIT also supports cross-border industry collaboration through the delivery of trade apprenticeships to large numbers of NSW apprentices and for providing a framework for Employment Service Agency client training engagement.

CIT is committed to an ongoing program of cross-border collaboration both formally through agreements, Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) and training contracts with industry.

In November 2012, CIT signed an MOU with TAFE Illawarra to foster academic collaboration and cooperation across the institutions for the mutual benefit of students and staff. Since the signing of the MOU a number of discussions have, and are taking place in consideration of maximising facilities and training expertise across the region. Initial discussions have focussed on the development and management of activities in automotive trades, construction and the health sector with a view of securing a jointly delivered project/s utilising national development funding opportunities.

CIT also delivered regional training through the National VET E-Learning Strategy during 2012-13, an initiative of the Australia and State and Territory Governments aimed at:

- strengthening the Australian training sector's use of new learning technologies
- stimulating innovative approaches to increasing participation in training and employment
- improving the skill levels of the Australian workforce.



In 2012/13 the following projects at CIT were funded through the Strategy:

- **The Remote Skills Acquisition for Fire Investigators** - a project that assisted regional fire investigators to develop critical skills in fire investigation. The project used Point of View (PoV) and fixed video camera technology to deliver and assess high level competencies in fire investigation. Students gained theoretical knowledge on-line and their practical skills were captured using PoV and fixed camera technology. This information was transferred to assessors via the National Broadband Network.
- **The Horton House E-learning for regional NSW aged care training project** delivered training to aged care workers at Horton House, Yass, in vital tasks relevant to their responsibilities in aged care residential and home and community care. Innovative e-learning practices allowed both current and emerging training demands to be addressed; and created opportunities for retraining both existing and new workforce employees.

Unfortunately with funding under the National VET E-Learning Strategy ending in 2013, the opportunities for regional development provided through this program will no longer be available.

CIT also fosters relationships with other regional entities where possible. Examples of this include:

- regular meetings with the local Manager of Regional Development Australia (RDA) to discuss alignment of cross-border activity and possible collaboration points;
- hosting of the South East Regional Organisation of Council dinner on 23 May 2013 for 12 local councils in south-east NSW and the ACT; and
- membership on the South East Region of Renewable Energy Excellence (SERREE) Steering Committee that aims to ensure the south-east region and ACT becomes the exemplar of regional renewable energy in Australia. CIT hosted a major renewable energy event in 2012 as part of our commitment to SERREE.

CIT supports the work of this committee and the development of collaborative opportunities across regional NSW.

If you would like any further information please feel free to contact me directly on 6207 3103.

Yours sincerely

Jenny Dodd
Chief Executive (Acting)

2 May 2013