

Statement from the Chair of the Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency

The Australian Government has announced that the work and staff of the Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency (AWPA) will be transferred into the Department of Industry. We anticipate that this transfer will be complete by 1 July 2014.


This transfer is in line with the Government's plan to streamline its advisory processes. We respect and accept that the Government has the right to establish these new arrangements and as such we will work to ensure a smooth transition.

We have been privileged to be able to contribute to the formulation of policy regarding the critical area of skills development for Australia. While others are best to judge, the Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency and former Skills Australia team has worked hard to build a solid body of work over the last six years. Our national strategies, sectoral reports, economic modelling, as well as our policy and research documents, have been used by industry and governments at all levels to inform their policies and practices.

I would like to thank current and past board members for their hard work and commitment over the life of the agency and also acknowledge the contribution, insights and input of the many stakeholders across the areas of industry, education, unions, employers, governments and the community sector. Their involvement enriched our work. I especially wish to thank the AWPA Secretariat for their commitment and professionalism over the past six years. In addition we have benefited greatly from the leadership and drive of our CEO Robin Shreeve and Head of Secretariat, Sue Beitz, which has helped ensure we stayed focused on delivering a high standard of work.

In terms of future arrangements, we are pleased that the Minister has decided that many of the functions of AWPA will transfer and be incorporated into the Department of Industry. The agency's secretariat staff are public servants within the Department of Industry which will assist the transfer process. The Government will in due course initiate the necessary legislative changes.

There are few times in our working lives where we are afforded an opportunity to contribute in an area which has the potential to positively impact so many people, and for this opportunity, we remain grateful.



Philip Bullock
Chair
Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency
9 April 2014.