



Australian Council of Social Service

25 January 2019

Stephen Joyce

Expert Review of the Vocational Education and Training Sector

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

PO Box 6500

Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Joyce,

Submission: Expert Review of the Vocational Education and Training Sector

The Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) is a national advocate for action to reduce poverty and inequality and the peak body for the community services sector in Australia. Our vision is for a fair, inclusive and sustainable Australia where all individuals and communities can participate in and benefit from social and economic life. ACOSS welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the work of the inquiry in this important area.

Due to capacity constraints, we have not been able to make a full submission to this inquiry. We refer to two ACOSS reports and submissions that are relevant to the inquiry and where the issues in this area are presented in more depth.

[Competition Policy and Human Services – where theory meets practice](#): This report, jointly commissioned by ACOSS and CHOICE, explores the implementation of contestability and competition in human services, using the VET sector as one of its case studies. This report finds that the manner in which contestability and competition has been implemented in the VET sector has been highly problematic, resulting in enormous budgetary blow-outs, considerable consumer harm and questionable results for industry.

[ACOSS Submission on Future Employment Services](#): This submission finds that the present employment services system, especially the main jobactive program, is not meeting the needs of unemployed people or employers, especially those who are disadvantaged in the labour market, and points to how employment and training services can make a difference to the outcomes for disadvantaged unemployed people.

If the inquiry has any questions regarding this submission, the ACOSS contact person is Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer John Mikelsons, on (02) 9210 6212 or john@acoss.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Cassandra Goldie
ACOSS CEO