



MEDIA RELEASE

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## **GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES THE IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL CAREER ADVISERS**

David Carney, Executive Director of the Career Industry Council of Australia, has welcomed Assistant Education Minister Sussan Ley's comments that school Career Advisers play a vital role in building a productive and enthusiastic workforce by providing high quality career advice to students. Minister Ley made her remarks at the opening of the Magical Mystery Tour of Skills as part of National Skills Week.

The unemployment rate of young people aged 15-24 years is about 14% nationally, the highest level since October 2001. The jobless rate for 15-19 year olds sits at 20.4%, the highest since April 1997.

Mr Carney said, "If we expect 15-19 year olds to be independent and resilient who are contributors to our society, then it is important that they are provided with quality career advice to help them make informed choices about study and work. This advice should come from qualified career advisers who meet the industry's professional standards – not from people or organisations with a vested interest in swaying young people's decision-making.

The Career Industry Council of Australia is pleased to see Minister Ley consulting with key stakeholders across Australia and that State and Territory Education Ministers have agreed to work with Minister Ley to update the Vocational Education and Training in Schools Framework, due for release in December 2014.

In a climate of increasing youth unemployment it is vital that State and Territory Education Ministers and School Principals ensure that their schools are providing quality career services that best enable students to help manage a successful transition from school to further education, training or employment.

Mr Carney is encouraged that Minister Ley acknowledges that quality career advice, through a heightened role for career advisers in schools, is a vital component in a contemporary VET in schools system.

As well as being an essential element of schooling, quality career services are vital for University & TAFE students and as part of the government employment services programs through Jobs Services Australia.

The Council hopes that employment service providers selected by the Government in the upcoming Employment Services 2015-2020 request for tender, will employ skilled and appropriately qualified career advisers to assist jobseekers to develop their Job Plans and ultimately secure employment.

The Career Industry Council of Australia has recently published a School Career Development Service Benchmark Resource. This resource has been developed for Principals and leadership teams of schools to help them get the best value and outcomes from their career development services. The Council plans to develop a similar resource with Universities and Employment Service Providers.

For a copy of the benchmark visit [www.cica.org.au/quality-benchmarking](http://www.cica.org.au/quality-benchmarking)

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