

**MEDIA RELEASE
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CICA welcomes Regional Education Commissioner's call for a national framework for career development

The Career Industry Council of Australia (CICA), Australia's national peak body for the career development profession, welcomes the Regional Education Commissioner's 2024 Annual Report and its strong recognition of the pivotal role that quality career development plays in building aspiration, confidence, and educational attainment, particularly in regional, rural, and remote communities.

The report's recommendation to undertake a national comprehensive assessment of career advice delivery and to develop a consistent national framework for careers advice across all life stages directly aligns with CICA's longstanding advocacy for a coherent, evidence-informed national approach to career development policy and practice.

"CICA commends the Commissioner for highlighting the critical contribution of career development in lifting participation, improving tertiary attainment, and addressing regional workforce challenges," said David Carney, Executive Director of CICA.

"A national framework that integrates career development across education, training, and employment systems is essential to supporting individuals to make informed choices and to strengthening Australia's future workforce."

Building Aspiration and Confidence Across the Lifespan

CICA strongly supports the Commissioner's emphasis on nurturing aspiration and confidence among young people and ensuring access to career advice across all stages of life.

This reflects CICA's national call for lifelong career development systems that assist people from school through to mid-life career transitions.

The report's message that *"you can't be what you can't see"* reinforces the need for sustained exposure to diverse education, training, and employment opportunities, an approach central to CICA's work in National Careers Week and the Little Ripples initiatives.

Valuing All Pathways and Strengthening Local Connections

CICA particularly welcomes the Commissioner's focus on valuing both vocational and higher education pathways equally, noting that career guidance should support informed choice, not predetermined hierarchy.



The report's proposed Regional Education Collaborate and Connect program, which aims to strengthen ties between education providers, industry, and communities, aligns closely with CICA's advocacy for integrated, locally responsive career development ecosystems.

"Career development is a shared responsibility across government, education, and industry," Mr Carney said.

"By embedding professional career support within these systems, Australia can strengthen transitions, build a skilled regional workforce, and enhance productivity."

Advancing a National Framework for Quality and Consistency

CICA reiterates the importance of establishing a nationally consistent policy framework underpinned by the CICA Professional Standards for Australian Career Development Practitioners and the Australian Blueprint for Career Development. These frameworks already provide the foundation for quality, accountability, and professional excellence in career development practice.

"The Commissioner's recommendations provide a timely opportunity for collaboration across jurisdictions to embed quality career development into education and workforce policy," Mr Carney said.

"CICA looks forward to working with the Australian Government and key stakeholders to progress this national agenda."

About CICA

The Career Industry Council of Australia (CICA) is the national peak body representing career development in Australia. CICA works collaboratively with governments, education, industry, and community to advance the professional standards, quality, and impact of career development services for all Australians.

Media Contact:

David Carney

Executive Director

Career Industry Council of Australia (CICA)

 info@cica.org.au |  www.cica.org.au