



Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP
Minister for Education, Training and Employment



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Dear Mr Doostkhan

Thank you for your letter dated 12 October 2012 regarding your proposal for the extension of the Get Set for Work program.

The decision to cease the Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW) initiative funding, which includes the Get Set for Work program, was not made lightly. With employment programs being the responsibility of the Australian Government and the need to shape a strong economic budget for 2012/13 that will lay the foundation for Queensland's long term initiative, the Government made the decision that it could not continue with the

My Department is honouring all existing contracts held by community-based organisations delivering Get Set for Work projects under the SQW initiative, with no existing participants being disadvantaged due to the cessation of the initiative. There will be no further funding of the Get Set for Work program beyond existing contract completion dates.

The Australian Government has primary responsibility for employment and workforce participation while the States and Territories are responsible for skills development. The Queensland Government will continue to improve the engagement of disadvantaged young people in education and training but the delivery of employment programs to disadvantaged jobseekers, including young people aged 15 to 19 years, is the responsibility of the Australian Government.

The Queensland Government recognises that young people who fail to complete year 12 or an equivalent qualification will be disadvantaged in the labour force, in many cases throughout their working lives. The Queensland Government is working closely with our Australian Government counterparts to minimise the gaps in the continuum of youth attainment and transition services delivered by both levels of government.

The Queensland Government funds Youth Support Coordinators across the State to help troubled young people in the compulsory phase of education overcome difficulties in staying at school or making a transition to further education, training and/or employment.

Another response to increasing attainment of young people is the Education or Training Entitlement for 15–24 years, delivered by the Queensland Government through schools and TAFE. It supports young people to attain Year 12 or equivalent qualifications so that they have the necessary qualifications required to get and keep a job and develop their careers.

The Australian Government has an extensive range of employment services for young people, particularly those with multiple barriers to workforce participation. All young people who are not in full time work or education are eligible for employment assistance through Job Services Australia (JSA) or Disability Employment Services (DES).

As well as mainstream JSA and DES services, the Australian Government also provides Transition Support for Early School Leavers to eligible jobseekers aged 15-21 years to help them develop basic literacy and numeracy skills, along with employment study and life skills to a level that they need to succeed on their chosen pathway. Some young people are also able to access up to 25 hours a week of foundation and employability skills for 6 months.

In addition, the Australian Government's Youth Connections provides support services and tailored case management for highly disadvantaged young Queenslanders aged 14–18 years at risk of not attaining Year 12 or equivalent qualification to re-connect with education or training.

As no new funding is available under SQW, organisations are encouraged to consider Australian Government funding for future proposals. Information on Australian Government grants can be found on the Grants link website online at <http://grants.myregion.gov.au/> or alternatively organisations can explore alternative funding opportunities with the private sector.

Should you wish to discuss any of this information further, please contact Mr David Lucas, Director, Skills and Employment by email at david.lucas@det.qld.gov.au or on telephone 3237 1767.

I thank you for raising this important matter with me.

Yours sincerely



JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP
Minister for Education, Training and Employment

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