



17 March 2009

Martin Riordan  
Executive Director  
TAFE Directors Australia  
Canberra Institute of Technology, Block E  
Southside Campus Woden, Ainsworth Street  
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Martin

The Community Services & Health Industry Skills Council invites you to participate in a Children's Services Industry Reference Group as part of the continuous improvement of Community Services Training Package (CHC08).

CHC08 includes 72 new qualifications, 551 community services units of competency and 32 skill sets. CHC08 was signed by ministers for education and training on 10 December 2008. The project to develop CHC08 commenced in July 2006 and the new Package updates the previous version established in 2002. The new Package has been keenly awaited by the community services industry and is central to workforce development and service delivery.

The continuous improvement process for Training Packages was introduced in 2008 and replaces the periodic whole-of-industry review. The continuous improvement process is intended to provide for more responsive changes to the Packages as skill needs change.

During the final stages of the project to develop CHC08 children's services a number of stakeholders informed the CS&H ISC that the package should not be endorsed until the unit of competency *CHCCN305A Care for babies* was made compulsory in the Certificate III in Children's Services. This competency is elective as the qualification is required for workers caring for school aged children not babies.

The Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, the State children's services regulator recommended CHC08 endorsement be conditional on *CHCCN305A Care for babies* being made compulsory in Certificate III in Children's Services and that this was also supported by stakeholders involved in the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) work on early childhood education and care and other children's services regulators.

Other children's services regulators had however already expressed support for CHC08 with *CHCCN305A Care for babies* as elective.

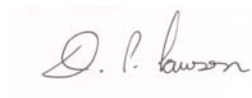
The CS&H ISC has committed to its stakeholders in the children's services sector to address this issue via the continuous improvement process. This may include making *CHCCN305A Care for babies* compulsory in Certificate III in Children's Services or other changes as more uniform

regulatory arrangements are established regarding care for babies. As part of this process a one day Children's Services Industry Reference Group meeting has been established to address the issue.

If you would kindly indicate your availability to participate at the Industry Reference Group by returning the enclosed RSVP form by Wednesday 15 April either via fax to: 02 9270 6600 or email to the Project Coordinator; [carmela.gollogley@cshisc.com.au](mailto:carmela.gollogley@cshisc.com.au). **The IRG meeting will be held in Sydney on Wednesday 29 April 2009 at the Stamford Plaza Sydney Airport Hotel.** An agenda pack will be forwarded to you prior to the first meeting.

If you have any questions or require any additional information about IRG participation, please do not hesitate to contact me directly on: (ph) 02 9270 6600 or alternatively via email: [di.lawson@cshisc.com.au](mailto:di.lawson@cshisc.com.au) .

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. P. Lawson", is enclosed in a light pink rectangular box.

**Di Lawson**  
**Chief Executive Officer**