
Thursday, 26 August 2010

NEW CHAIR FOR PEAK SKILLS ADVISORY BODY

Employment, Training and Further Education Minister, Jack Snelling today announced the appointment of a new Chair to the Training and Skills Commission, the State's peak advisory body on skills and workforce development.

The new Chair is Mr Adrian Smith, Managing Director of SYDAC - a leading developer of simulation technology and engineering software.

"Mr Smith has been a Commission member since 2003, and has more than 17 years experience as an engineer and 12 years leading SYDAC, so he brings a wealth of industry experience to the position," Mr Snelling said.

"He has a strong commitment to education and training and, as Commission Chair, will play a key role in increasing the State's workforce skills base through the development of our ten point **Skills for All** reform program to modernise and renew the VET system in South Australia.

"The Commission's responsibilities include overseeing our traineeship and apprenticeship system and ensuring we maintain a high quality of training providers and accredited courses within the national qualifications system," Mr Snelling said.

"I'd like to thank the Commission Chair for the past two years - Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley AC - for her vision and leadership during that period.

"Professor Bradley was instrumental in guiding the Commission's ambitious reform agenda contained in the 2009 **Skills for Jobs** plan.

"This plan provided the impetus for the **Skills for All** plan which aims to ensure we have the skills for future growth in our existing, new and emerging industries.

Mr Snelling also announced the appointment of four new Commission members in line with a change of focus from academic to industry membership:

- Dr John Buchanan – Director, Workplace Research Centre, The University of Sydney
- Ms Angela Coker - Group Training Manager, ASC Pty Ltd
- Ms Miriam Silva (appointed as Deputy Chair) - General Manager, Commercial Operations, Elders
- Ms Lindsay Simmons – a former teacher, MP, industry consultant and Policy Development Manager for the SA Council on the Ageing

They join members of the previous Commission who have been re-appointed for a further two years:

- Dr Michael Keating AC – A member of the State’s Economic Development Board and former Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and other Commonwealth Departments including Employment and Industrial
- Mr Peter Vaughan - Chief Executive Officer of Business SA.
- Ms Janet Giles - Secretary of SA Unions and member of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) Executive, and
- Mr Paul Dowd - Managing Director of Phoenix Copper Ltd, Chair of the Resources & Engineering Skills Alliance, Chair of the Resource sector Infrastructure Council of SA, and Chair, Adelaide Resources.

Mr Snelling thanked the outgoing Commission members for their efforts and commitment:

- Mr Patrick Wright, Adjunct Associate Professor of Labour Studies at the University of Adelaide’s Australian Institute for Social Research
- Professor Roy Green, Dean of the Faculty of Business at the University of Technology, Sydney, and
- Professor Roger Harris, Director of the Centre for Research in Education, Equity and Work at the University of South Australia.