

The Hon Brendan O'Connor MP  
Minister for Employment Participation

Dear Mr O'Connor

We are responding to your recent letter seeking feedback on employment services improvement.

We are a community organisation providing services in WA for 34 years. We have extensive experience and success in providing employment preparation services, career support and post placement follow-up services in partnership with communities, industry and government.

Examples of our current initiatives employment creation include:

- Working with Bilyar Nyoongar to source funding for vocational training to be delivered by the community.
- Working with Goojarr Goonyool Aboriginal Corporation to develop their existing whale research base, adding a training facility and "day visitor" tourism experiences. The primary purpose of the centre is to provide meaningful activities for young people, in a real, hands-on, experiential learning context. This centre has the capacity to play a major role in youth suicide prevention.
- Working with leaders in the Gooniyandi community to revive the Gooniyandi Corporation for support and development of local Indigenous community organisations and business development support for local Indigenous employers.

We are able to work in partnership with communities in WA to prepare Indigenous staff as child care and health care workers for the new government's initiatives,

We are keen to partner with the Australian Government in the above employment development projects, in a way that meets the expressed needs of communities, and where accountability requirements, as well as services, are funded.

The effectiveness of current government programmes is hampered by lack of flexibility in adapting to changing community needs, and lack of specific funding to meet accountability requirements.

I am happy to meet with you and/or your representative, to give examples of the work we are doing, and the ways in which the government could partner with ourselves and the communities we work with. Each community has quite different needs, depending on their individual plans and stage of implementation of their plans.

Thank you for your invitation to contribute.

Regards

Dave

Dave Grealy  
Chief Executive Officer  
Stirling Skills Training Inc. / Jobs West