



Skills
Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

INDUSTRY LEADERS MEET TO STRENGTHEN OUR SKILLS BASE

Key industry and government figures met on 20 February at a strategic industry forum and resolved to ensure that skills development and training do not become a casualty of the current uncertain economic times.

The forum, which included Skills Australia, chairs of the boards of Industry Skills Councils, representatives of key industry peak bodies, and the chairs of State Training Authorities, concluded that Australia cannot live on past merit and agreed that change is needed to ensure a more prosperous and fair future.

Industry leaders identified four key areas for action to strengthen Australia's skills base:

- Strengthening strategic industry leadership
- Enhancing quality
- Improving funding and equity
- Using evidence-based policy and planning

Key industry leaders expressed their commitment to work collaboratively at the industry, state and national level to address the agreed priorities of industry and government and meet Australia's skills needs.

The Chair of Skills Australia, Philip Bullock, said: "We are indeed fortunate to have people of the passion and capability across industry, providers, and commonwealth and state government stakeholders. The next phase of the skills development journey has commenced," he said, "and we now have the opportunity to develop a new and reenergised commitment to collaborative action. This will ensure that we have a higher skilled industry and population through the current economic uncertainties and beyond."

Work on the four themes identified will be coordinated by a Working Group, which will help drive change in collaboration with broader industry and community stakeholders.

A communiqué from the meeting is attached and also available at www.skillsaustralia.gov.au

Media enquiries may be directed to secretariat@skillsaustralia.gov.au

