



WEST COAST INSTITUTE
OF TRAINING

Mr Oliver Moon
Chief Executive Officer
Combined Small Business Alliance of WA
PO Box 253
Joondalup WA 6919

Dear Mr Moon

Small Business Training Institute

I refer to your letter dated 13 November 2009 and a similar letter from your President Mr Marshall dated 27 October 2009. I am genuinely sorry that you are not able to accept my request to meet and discuss your concerns.

I believe that open dialogue is a valuable means of progressing issues and feel that the opportunity to meet and have a constructive conversation with CoSBA would have allowed all parties to move forward with a clear understanding as to the expectations and role of the Small Business Training Institute. However I respect your decision and we will not bother you further for a face to face meeting.

In regard to Mr Marshall's letter it is appropriate to put a few comments on the record. Firstly while the original CoSBA letter was directed to Mr Spence at the State Training Board; given its strong criticism of the operations of our Institute and its wide distribution to many parties but strangely not to ourselves, it was entirely appropriate that we initiate enquiries to ascertain the basis for the concern – this can hardly be described as incongruous.

Secondly, we deny categorically the allegation by Mr Marshall that your concerns have been totally disregarded – the Advisory Board of which you are a member is open at all times for frank and free discussion and we encourage you to speak up and if you wish, to have items minuted for the record. Of course any such forum will be subject to a majority view and if an individual has views that are apart from the majority then it may be that the individual will not "get his own way".

Thirdly the Chair of the WCSBTI Advisory Board's request that members of the Advisory Board act as individuals and not on behalf of their own organisation is standard practice in my experience and certainly applies on the Governing Council of West Coast Institute of Training where representatives of a range of industry bodies contribute constructively to the business at hand without formally representing those organisations. In the event of any possible conflict, it is declared and managed accordingly. From time to time confidential matters do arise that for example might be commercial-in-confidence and quite appropriately are to be confidential within the Board and as such are not to be discussed with third parties without the express permission of the Board.

Hypothetically a member of a board who is representative of an outside organisation might use the information discussed at the board to pursue a competing agenda and might not declare a conflict of

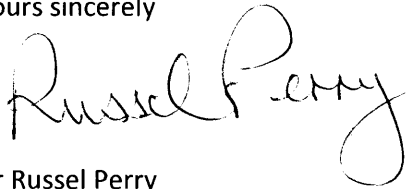
interest until it is too late. I am sure you would agree that such a situation should not be allowed to occur.

While I would have liked to canvas such matters face to face, you do not wish this to happen and thus I hope this letter is helpful to your further considerations. In this regard I understand that the State Training Board at its meeting on 10 December will discuss the serious allegations raised by CoSBA and I note this will not occur before your next Board meeting on 1 December.

There is scheduled to be another meeting of the WCSBTI Advisory Board on 2 December which I will be attending to provide an update to the Advisory Board about wider WCIT matters. Hopefully we can meet on that occasion?

As you have apparently done with our earlier correspondence, I would welcome your circulation of this letter to your members via the CoSBA Broadcast.

Yours sincerely



Dr Russel Perry
Chair, Governing Council
West Coast Institute of Training

25 November 2009

cc Minister for Training Hon Peter Collier
cc Minister for Commerce Hon Troy Buswell
cc Mr Keith Spence Chair, State Training Board