



**Hon Peter Collier MLC**  
**Minister for Energy; Training and Workforce Development; Indigenous Affairs**

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34-12279

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

Dear Mr Moon

Western Australia's economy is forecast to expand significantly over the coming decade. This expansion will place increasing demands on the State's resources – particularly human resources. Research by the Department of Training and Workforce Development suggests Western Australia could face a deficit of up to 150,000 workers by 2017 to fill the new jobs created by economic growth and to replace existing workers who retire from the workforce.

To address this, the State Government recently released *Skilling WA – a workforce development plan for Western Australia (Skilling WA)* which sets out the framework for how Western Australia will train, attract and retain a skilled workforce for the future. You would have previously received a copy of this strategy.

*Skilling WA* provides a multi-faceted approach to meeting the states labour force needs into the future. For example, amongst others, it provides specific strategies for engaging Aboriginal people and those with disabilities into the workforce, more flexibility within our training system and a more co-ordinated State government response to workforce development issues in Western Australia.

*Skilling WA* also addresses the issue of a comprehensive skilled migration strategy and to this end I am delighted to inform you of the release of the *Western Australian skilled migration strategy* - a blueprint for managing the State's participation in the national migration program.

Complementing *Skilling WA*, the *Western Australian skilled migration strategy* sets out a range of initiatives targeted at supplementing the State's workforce with highly skilled migrants to fill vacancies that are unable to be filled by the local workforce.

These initiatives are focused on:

- delivering a more consistent and integrated planning approach to skilled migration;
- providing easily accessible, high quality information on skilled migration;
- developing attraction and retention strategies to ensure Western Australia has the skilled workforce needed to support sustainable economic growth;
- refining migration processes to support a more flexible and responsive migration program; and
- implementing a range of settlement services to support skilled migrants to integrate into the local workforce.

These initiatives and those of *Skilling WA* are aimed at addressing the State's current and future workforce development challenges with a strategic and coordinated approach.

As outlined in *Skilling WA* our first workforce development priority is to train and prepare local West Australians for the workforce. However, the scale of labour demand from industry requires us to use a range of strategies to maximise the availability of skilled labour.

To achieve this, the State Government will work across portfolios, and with the Australian Government and industry, to ensure Western Australia is prepared for the increasing labour needs of the State's industries. As a key stakeholder in this process, I have enclosed a copy of the *Western Australian skilled migration strategy* and welcome your continued cooperation in working with us to address the State's workforce development needs.

Kind regards



Hon Peter Collier MLC  
**MINISTER FOR ENERGY; TRAINING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT;  
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS**

23 MAR 2011



Mr Oliver Moon  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 Combined Small Business Association (CoSBA)  
 PO Box 2237  
 MIDLAND WA 6936

Dear Mr Moon 

**SMALL BUSINESS LINK FORUM WITH THE MINISTER FOR SMALL BUSINESS**

On behalf of the Minister for Small Business, the Hon Simon O'Brien MLC, I would like to invite you or a representative from your organisation to a *Small Business Ministerial Link Forum*, followed by light refreshments, on 20 April 2011.

This Forum will provide business and industry association representatives with a small business focus the opportunity to raise and discuss issues affecting Small Business in Western Australia directly with the Minister.

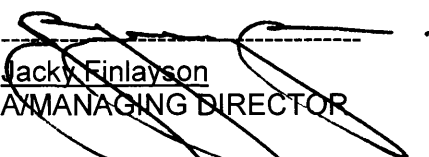
To register your attendance at the Forum and/or to place an issue for discussion on the agenda, please contact Ms Lauren Westcott on 9220 0282 or via email at [lauren.westcott@smallbusiness.wa.gov.au](mailto:lauren.westcott@smallbusiness.wa.gov.au) by close of business Monday, 4 April 2011. Places have been limited to allow for meaningful participation, so register early to ensure your place at the table.

**FORUM DETAILS**

<b>Venue:</b>	Royal Perth Yacht Club Australia II Drive, Crawley, WA
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday, 20 April 2011
<b>Time:</b>	2:45pm to 4:30pm, followed by light refreshments
<b>RSVP:</b>	Ms Lauren Westcott on 9220 0282 or <a href="mailto:lauren.westcott@smallbusiness.wa.gov.au">lauren.westcott@smallbusiness.wa.gov.au</a> . Places are limited and registrations close on 4 April 2011 Please inform us of any dietary requirements when registering
<b>Parking:</b>	Parking is available on Australia II Drive

I look forward to your attendance.

Yours sincerely

  
 Jacky Finlayson  
 MANAGING DIRECTOR  
 28 March 2011