



29 March 2016

Mr Andrew Laming MP
Chair, House of Representatives Standing
Committee on Education and Employment
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

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Submission: Inquiry into innovation and creativity: workforce for the new economy

Dear Mr Laming,

The NSW Business Chamber welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Education and Employment Committee Inquiry into innovation and creativity.

As you may be aware, the NSW Business Chamber (NSWBC) is one of Australia's largest business support groups, with a direct membership of more than 19,000 businesses, providing services to over 30,000 businesses each year. Tracing its heritage back to the Sydney Chamber of Commerce established in 1825, NSWBC works with thousands of businesses ranging in size from owner operators to large corporations, and spanning all industry sectors from product-based manufacturers to service provider enterprises. NSWBC is a leading business solutions provider and advocacy group with strengths in workplace management, occupational health and safety, industrial relations, human resources, international trade and business performance consulting.

NSWBC has long believed more effective and efficient industry-research collaboration to be a major key to unlocking the productivity potential of Australian business. As such, the Chamber produced and would like to submit the following two attachments addressing Item 3 of the Inquiry's Terms of Reference.

Industry-Research Collaboration: Stakeholder Insights

In February 2014, NSWBC hosted a roundtable with over 60 leaders from industry, academia and government to discuss the barriers hindering closer relationships between industry and the research sector, and ways to improve the effectiveness of industry-research collaborations. The attached *Stakeholder Insights* report provides an overview of the issues and insights collected. An online version of this report is available here: <http://www.businesschamber.com.au/NSWBC/media/Forms/NSWBC-Industry-Research-Collaboration-Insights-Paper.pdf>

Thinking Business: Industry-Research Collaboration

Following the roundtable, NSWBC together with PwC conducted further research and consultation to produce a report with six practical recommendations to address the barriers to effective collaboration and at improving the conversion of Australia's considerable research expertise into commercial success. The Chamber has also established an advisory alliance with leaders from across the innovation ecosystem

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to help refine and implement those recommendations. An online version of this report is available here:

<http://www.nswbusinesschamber.com.au/NSWBCWebsite/media/Policy/Thinking%20Business%20Reports/Industry-Research-Collaboration.pdf>

The Chamber would be pleased to meet with the committee to discuss the findings of these reports in more detail. Please feel free to contact Mr Hamish Li, Policy Advisor, NSW Business Chamber on 9458 7491 or via Hamish.Li@nswbc.com.au if you wish to discuss these matters further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Orton".

Paul Orton
Director, Policy & Advocacy
NSW Business Chamber



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