

Northern Territory Employment Strategy

In March, the NT Government released a discussion paper titled *Northern Territory Employment Strategy*

2009 – 2011 to which the Chamber responded. Consequently, we were invited to participate in consultation forums in Darwin and Alice Springs in mid April.

The Chamber's submission and contribution at the forums highlighted a number of issues:

- NTG policies, programs and strategies must not duplicate federal initiatives. This causes confusion and is a waste of resources.
- The education system must ensure that school leavers have the literacy, numeracy and employability skills needed to enter the workforce.
- Continuing career development for school-based Career Advisors is essential and funding must be provided for this.
- Training for tradesmen who train and assess apprentices and trainers should be provided at no charge to the employer.
- The NTG should develop tripartite relationships with business and industry to address skill shortages, better coordinate procurement activities, and develop employment strategies.
- The NTG should re-introduce the Minister's Employment, Education and Training Round Tables.

As a result of input from one of our members, we believe the Government will consider a short term (6-12 months) strategy in addition to the longer term one.

Further information on these topics is available from John Emslie and Hugh Roberts on 8982 8100. Email contacts are"

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