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17 May 2023

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations  
By email: [AustralianApprenticeshipPolicy@dewr.gov.au](mailto:AustralianApprenticeshipPolicy@dewr.gov.au)

**Re: Future Directions Australian Apprenticeships Support Services Consultation Paper**

The Australian Services Union (ASU) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the Future Directions Australian Apprenticeships Support Services Consultation Paper.

The ASU is one of Australia's largest unions, representing approximately 135,000 members. The ASU has members in many industries and occupations including: social and community services, local government, state government, transport, aviation, energy, water and the private sector.

The ASU is supportive of the future growth and revitalisation of the apprenticeship system in Australia. We are supportive of the proposed future directions and proposed support measures outlined in the Consultation Paper.

Whilst we acknowledge the focus of these consultations are on non-financial support service, without improved incentives and financial support that is available to both employers and apprentices up-take of apprenticeships will continue to stagnate. There is an urgent need for monetary incentives which would encourage the employer and the apprentice to undertake and complete their apprenticeship.

Government funding for apprenticeships plays a crucial role in developing a skilled workforce, supporting economic growth, and addressing industry needs. It benefits apprentices by providing valuable training and employment opportunities, while also benefiting businesses and the broader economy by fostering productivity, innovation, and a sustainable labour market.

We look forward to addressing these issues in the financial support consultation to be undertaken in late 2023.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Potter", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Robert Potter  
**NATIONAL SECRETARY**