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Sent: Tuesday, 6 September 2022 1:34 PM

To: Skills and Training Boost <SkillsBoost@TREASURY.GOV.AU>

Cc: pharrison@tourism.australia.com

Subject: Skills Boost

Good Afternoon,

I wish to provide feedback regarding the skills boost program currently open for review and feedback.

As a contractor for the Federal Government's Australian Small Business Advisory Services (ASBAS) program in South Australia, we have supported more than 1500 small businesses in tourism with non-accredited training programs including workshops, and multi-week small group learning courses.

The tourism industry, and its staff require support for the delivery of hands-on, practical training to improve digital capability that allows them to streamline their business operation and deliver practical support for the growth of their business. Especially at a time that staff shortages are of concern, small businesses require practical training to build capacity, and streamline their operation through a digital stack.

Non-accredited training appears to be ineligible expense for the ATO Skills Boost initiative, and I (along with the clients that I represent, would like to see this reconsidered).

Non accredited training provides support in the following ways:

Non-accredited courses are specially designed to teach you relevant skills that will enable you to perform your job more effectively, typically in a shorter period of time (Upskilled.edu.au).

These non-accredited courses offer a range of benefits in helping you to achieve your personal and career goals, including:

- Build more in-depth skills and knowledge on top of what you may have already acquired through an accredited course.
- Stay on top of industry advancements and adopt the latest skills to meet the growing demands of your field.
- Build greater earning potential by adding new skills and certifications to your resume.
- Create networking opportunities and connect with other professionals in your field.
- Get greater career advancement prospects by building the skills needed to move into new positions that may be more fulfilling or give you more responsibilities.
- Learn on your own terms, studying whenever is most convenient for you.

As the skills boost initiative is targeted at small business, and digital literacy – the above explanation highlights why it is important that non-accredited digital training is included in the program – to deliver immediate, practical support for small business.

I look forward to seeing the release of the policy and hope the above will be considered.

Thank you

Hayden

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