

Parliament of Victoria

Parliamentary inquiries: How to maximise the impact of your submission

An online workshop presented by
Committee staff at the Parliament of Victoria

Activity 1: Reviewing submissions

Practical exercise

Background

Attached is an example submission made to the Victorian Parliament's Legislative Assembly Economy and Infrastructure Committee's Inquiry into sustainable employment for disadvantaged jobseekers.

Please note, this submission has been chosen on the basis that it is a strong submission, but there is still potential to make it stronger.

Task

Please review the example submission.

In breakout groups, you have seven minutes to discuss:

- the strengths and weaknesses of the submission.
- what makes the submission engaging or what makes it hard to read?

Each breakout group should nominate a spokesperson to report back the main group on your discussion.

Example submission

This submission has been abridged for the purposes of this activity.

You are provided with:

- The coversheet
- The table of contents
- Parts of the substantive section of the submission

LA EIC - Disadvantaged Jobseekers Inquiry
Submission no. 95
Received: 19 August 2019



Sustainable employment for disadvantaged jobseekers



VCOSS Submission to the
Parliament of Victoria's Economy and
Infrastructure Standing Committee Inquiry

August 2019

The Victorian Council of Social Service is the peak body of the social and community sector in Victoria.

VCOSS members reflect the diversity of the sector and include large charities, peak organisations, small community services, advocacy groups and individuals interested in social policy.

In addition to supporting the sector, VCOSS represents the interests of Victorians experiencing poverty and disadvantage, and advocates for the development of a sustainable, fair and equitable society.

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This submission was prepared by [redacted] and authorised by VCOSS CEO [redacted]

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A fully accessible version is available online at vcoss.org.au/policy/



VCOSS acknowledges the traditional owners of country and pays respect to past, present and emerging Elders.

This document was prepared on the lands of the Kulin Nation.



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Pursue economic development strategies that prioritise employment-intensive growth and yield jobs that can be filled by disadvantaged jobseekers

Recommendation

- Support place-based, integrated and collaborative employment and training partnerships to harness local employment opportunities

Place-based strategies have the power to deliver local solutions to local problems, such as unemployment.

They can empower people to develop and drive their own innovative community solutions, and integrate them successfully over the long term. They help build stronger communities that are better equipped to overcome entrenched poverty and disadvantage, in places where it has built up over generations.

There are many things the Victorian Government can do to help develop place-based approaches across the State, including funding approaches through a social innovation fund, consulting to develop a shared vision, developing a focus on place, taking a long-term view, supporting local initiatives with social procurement and workforce training, consulting on service selection and measurement options, and sharing data.

This includes targeted strategies and associated investment in locations where jobs are scarce (for example, areas directly impacted industry restructures).

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Recommendation

- Secure the community sector growth dividend

The Victorian Government can secure the community sector growth dividend for disadvantaged jobseekers by:

Boosting community sector pay and conditions

Community services industry growth can only provide secure futures for Victorian workers if these new jobs offer decent pay and conditions. Victoria needs to fund community service employers to keep pace with wage and cost increases, and to avoid creating more insecure and low-paid jobs.

To achieve fair wages and conditions, community service organisations need a properly costed pricing and indexation framework that maintains fair funding levels. The industry is being squeezed by baseline funding increases of only 2 per cent each year, threatening job security and wage levels.

Growing community sector skills in the regions

Victoria especially needs to construct a pipeline of qualified, professional community service workers in our regions, where skill shortages are most acute. These shortages are compromising regional service quality and stymieing jobs growth. Investing in local, community-led approaches can be effective to secure regional jobs and ensure our regions get equivalent services.

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Activity 2: Writing recommendations

Practical exercise

Background

The Victorian Parliament's Legislative Assembly Economy and Infrastructure Committee is undertaking an Inquiry into sustainable employment for disadvantaged jobseekers.

Your organisation is concerned that some jobseekers have difficulty accessing jobs due to lack of transport. Stakeholders have told you:

- Many jobs require a driving license and/or vehicle, require shift work, or are not located near public transport.
- Research shows that jobseekers facing disadvantage are less likely to own a vehicle or have a valid driver licence.
- Some jobseekers, especially young people, cannot afford driving lessons and do not have family or friends to teach them to drive.
- There are some successful programs that help people facing disadvantage to obtain a licence.
 - The Transport Accident Commission funds the L2P Learner Driver Mentor Program, which assists learners aged 16 to 21 who do not have access to a supervising driver or vehicle to undertake the 120 hours of supervised practice required to apply for a probationary licenced. The program is successful but has long waiting lists and cannot meet demand. Also, jobseekers over the age of 21 do not have access to the program.
- Many jobseekers facing disadvantage live in areas with poor public transport services.
- Most public transport in Melbourne is designed to move workers in and out of the city during business hours. There are fewer services in the suburbs that link people with industrial or commercial zones especially at nights and on weekends.
- Public transport in regional Victoria is very limited.

Task

Based on the information provided write a recommendation to include in your submission to the Committee. You have ten minutes.

You may wish to use this formula:

- **That the** [Minister for X, Victorian Government, Department of Y]
- **Verb/action** [consider, review, implement, legislate, ensure, publish etc]
- **Outcome** [to ensure, achieve, enable etc]

Example: That the Department of Health and Human Services comprehensively review its housing related websites, in consultation with users, to improve transparency, accessibility and customer service outcomes.

Select a spokesperson from your group to share your draft recommendation with the wider group. You will also be asked to share:

- the process you took to draft the recommendation
- what you found difficult about drafting the recommendation.