

Sample 'safe construction' letter

20 February 2006

The Honourable Julie Bishop, MP
Minister for Education, Science and Training
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Firstly, let me congratulate you on your recent appointment as Minister for Education, Science and Training.

I am writing to you today to discuss the Cooperative Research Centre program, a program that the Federal Government should be congratulated for creating. This important policy initiative has delivered significant benefits to the construction industry that I wish to highlight given the approaching commencement of the CRC funding renewal process.

As you would be aware the CRC for *Construction Innovation* was formed in 2001 in an effort to create a more sustainable, profitable and safer construction industry.

Much of its work has centred on reducing the impact building projects have on the environment, improving the safety for workers on construction sites, encouraging more innovative building design and developing tools and techniques to allow the industry to efficiently manage their building and infrastructure assets.

To illustrate just one of the many benefits that have been delivered to our industry, the CRC for *Construction Innovation* is currently undertaking research into safety and safety culture in the construction industry.

Safety is a major issue confronting our industry. Between 1998–99 and 2001–02 there were 189 fatalities in the building and construction industry. Statistics show that people working in the industry are more than twice as likely to be killed at work than the Australian all-industries average.

The Cole Royal Commission reported the industry's safety record as unacceptable. In response, the Federal Government created the office of the Federal Safety Commissioner, appointing Mr Tom Fisher to the position. We applaud this as one of many initiatives required to reduce the number of deaths and injuries in our industry.

We feel that stepping up the research being undertaken by the CRC for *Construction Innovation* is another vitally important initiative that must be maintained to ensure a safer industry.

Innovation holds the key to a more sustainable, safer and profitable construction industry. By bringing together the traditionally fragmented construction industry, the CRC for *Construction Innovation's* work will be able to improve the quality of our built environment, create safer workplaces and living spaces. We are committed to the continuation of its funding.

I would be happy to discuss this further with you or a representative from your office if you require more information.

Again, congratulations to your Government for this outstanding policy initiative.

Yours sincerely

Your Name
Your Title