

Master Painters and Decorators Australia (MP&DA) Submission to the 2024 Statutory Review of the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund and Levy Collection Act 1990

Please see below for the MP&DA response to Terms of Reference items, noting that not all items have been addressed.

Attainment of the objectives of the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund and Levy Collection Act 1990 including: 1) To improve the quality of training. 2) To increase the number of skilled persons in the building and construction industry.

With regard to 1), we have seen positive signs in the improvement of painting and decorating training quality and the CTF has made a significant contribution to this end. However, it is more accurate to say that these outcomes are a result of the collaboration between CTF and a wider stakeholder group.

Most notably this includes private RTOs such as MPA Skills and TAFE, where we note the importance of the highly dedicated trainers and administrators in improving training quality in painting and decorating. Examples include:

1. MPA Skills' Painting Trainer, Stephen Delaney being named Trainer of the Year in 2022.
2. A working group comprising TAFE, MPA Skills and MP&DA, with input from CTF, to update the estimating unit in the Painters Registration course to ensure it remains directly relevant to industry.
3. WA Painting Apprentices Lachlan Matheson and Antoinette Jackson winning Gold and Silver Medals respectively at the WorldSkills National Competition in 2023.

MP&DA maintains a leading role in driving productive outcomes involving all stakeholders, and our members continue to support CTF sponsored initiatives and actively engage with industry efforts to maintain high training standards.

The clear takeaway is that CTF are an instrumental partner in improving training outcomes, though its effectiveness is dependent on commitment and dedication from across industry and the training sector.

With regard to 2), based on member feedback and engagement with the wider industry and Group Training Organisation MPA Skills, we note there remains a considerable shortage of skilled painters and decorators in WA.

The high standard of training in painting and decorating, as noted above, suggests that there is a need for the CTF to pursue and support further innovation and new initiatives to attract more individuals into trades careers in the first instance as a primary means of addressing skills shortages. We also submit, based on our engagement with the training sector, that there is also a significant need to attract quality trainers into the system.

The need for this Act to continue in operation.

MP&DA is of the view that there is a definite need for the Act to continue in operation.

Recommendation 10 – Introduce a capital value cap.

To the extent that a capital value cap would limit the amount of revenue obtained through the levy, MP&DA would be opposed to any such move. We have already noted the considerable need to

address skills shortage by committing more funding through grants and subsidies to extend the range of programs and initiative aimed at attracting more individuals to trades careers and to the training system. It is therefore vital that funding is increased to allow for a wider range of approaches to addressing these issues.

Recommendation 12 - Increase threshold at which the Levy applies.

To the extent that a threshold increase would limit the amount of revenue obtained through the levy, for the reasons given above MP&DA would be opposed to any such move. MP&DA are of view that the current \$20,000 threshold is appropriate.