

## Press Release

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# Australia now leads in job placement – and the world is taking notice

**14 February, 2008**

The CEO of Australia's largest private employment services company, Jobfind Centres Australia, Mr Con Kittos, today said international interest in Australia's employment services model was growing – with reports that the UK and other EU countries are now looking to adopt Australia's model.

In a submission to the Commonwealth Government's *Employment Services Review* headed by the Minister for Employment Participation, the Hon Brendan O'Connor, Mr Kittos affirmed the "high rating" performance of the Job Network – allowing countless job seekers to tailor programs to meet their individual needs.

Most recently on 27 January, 2008, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced that the UK Government would adopt further elements of the Australian Job Network model (please see reference to BBC articles at the end of the release). These announcements have been met with bipartisan support.

"Overseas interest in the Job Network has seen service providers around the country approached by overseas bureaucrats and providers who are looking at adapting our model to their own countries," Mr Kittos said today.

"The employment services sector is truly an area where the partnership between private sector and Government is achieving real value for tax payers' money.

"Every day we are achieving more placements – and that means fewer Australians on benefits, a more sophisticated workforce and a more productive economy.

"That's why there is now so much overseas interest in the Job Network," Mr Kittos said.

Mr Kittos predicted that the thrust of Government policy changes during the Rudd Government would focus on building a dynamic partnership between Government and the private sector.

"The message today is that while the system is working, there is always more to be done," Mr Kittos said.

"After nearly ten years, an updated Job Network system is needed to weight its

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outcome fees, performance evaluation and purchasing mechanisms to reflect today's labour market as well as the new Government's expectations around social inclusion.

"Jobfind's recommendations include the five year contracts, collapsing duplicating programmes, reduced service eligibility gaps and a single point of delivery to support job seekers, especially those with complex barriers. The Government could also examine greater participation by existing clients, as well as those with the capacity to work but who are currently not expected to" Mr Kittos said.

"At Jobfind Centres Australia, every success story is an invitation for us to work harder.

"Our submission calls for the Minister to consider policies to improve the aptitude, experience and qualifications of job seekers.

"That's where we need real leadership as we face new challenges in managing our fee structures and streamlining our service delivery programs.

"We look forward to a strong partnership with the Rudd Government on these important initiatives," Mr Kittos said.

Jobfind Centres Australia is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Angus Knight Group. It is the third largest Job Network provider operating across 74 sites servicing 114 locations in all States and the Northern Territory.

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Jobfind's full submission to the Commonwealth Government's Review of the Job Network can be found online at: <http://www.jobfindcentre.com.au/general/news.htm>

### NOTES TO EDITORS

#### About Jobfind Centres Australia Pty Ltd

Jobfind is a division of the Angus Knight group of companies, an Australian-owned organisation with a proven, decade-long record of providing quality employment and training services. A member of the Federal Government's Job Network®, Jobfind places over 2000 job seekers in to work each month.

For more information on Jobfind and the Angus Knight Group, please visit [www.jobfindcentre.com.au](http://www.jobfindcentre.com.au)

#### Press reference materials from the BBC, United Kingdom

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/politics\\_show/7211800.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/politics_show/7211800.stm)

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