



# Australian Foundry Institute

ABN 53 830 764 159

29/01/2020

Submission re: NSNL Methodology Discussion Paper

To: Director, Apprenticeships Framework Policy

The Australian Foundry Institute represents the majority of metal casting businesses in Australia. We employ apprentices in the trades of Patternmaker and Moulder.

Our industry is an important but relatively small service industry to the larger Mining, Agriculture, General Engineering, Rail, Transport and Defence industries in Australia. Some of our businesses have very significant exports to the US and elsewhere.

Metal casting businesses are present in all of Australia's capitals, many of the larger regional centres and some rural areas. These businesses are largely small to medium size operations with ageing workforces. In several instances, these businesses are the primary employer in the town.

The AFI agree in principle with the Skills Shortage Methodology proposed. Given the size of our industry, we do have concerns that we will lack "visibility" with the proposed methodology. We strongly advocate having direct consultation during the skills shortage analysis phase.

In 2019 apprentice training resumed in Victoria. The training model applied enables training of apprentices beyond Victorian borders. Together with the Queensland based apprentice training, we are now well positioned to address the anticipated significant attrition in Moulders and Patternmakers due to an ageing workforce.

Many of the leaders in our industry have come from trade backgrounds. Continuing Foundry trades listing on the NSNL strengthens our ability to refill the pipeline of future leaders in our industry, as well as maintaining and growing current business activity.

Regards,

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**Alan Cooke | National President**

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