



Office of Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash
Minister for Employment
Minister for Women
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service

Reference: MC17-048259

Mr Mark Gering
85/35a Sutherland Crescent
DARLING POINT NSW 2027

Dear Mr Gering

This letter is in response to your emails of 24 July 2017 and 21 September 2017 to Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, Minister for Employment, and the Hon Christian Porter MP, Minister for Social Services, concerning your proposed commercialisation hub for mature age individuals seeking to become entrepreneurs. I am responding on the Ministers' behalf.

Thank you for your interest and proposal aimed at helping mature age individuals develop their own business idea. I understand that the Department of Industry is in contact with you to look at some possible options for Australian Government support.

I note the next step for your Infinity Lab proposal is to move to the implementation stage, which includes refining the business model and defining specific markets, participants and suppliers. Once these program details have been settled, you can apply to the Department of Employment to have your program assessed as an approved non-government program for Annual Activity Requirement purposes. The Annual Activity Requirement is a specific number of hours most people must participate in an approved activity, for six months each year, after 12 months of unemployment.

The application form for non-government programs approved for Annual Activity Requirement purposes can be downloaded at www.employment.gov.au/non-government-programmes-approved-annual-activity-requirement-purposes.

If your program is approved, *jobactive* providers are able to refer participants to that program to fulfil their Annual Activity Requirement. You should note that approval of a non-government program for Annual Activity Requirement purposes does not constitute approval of any costs associated with the program. You must liaise with individual *jobactive* providers regarding potential program costs. As such, you may like to discuss your proposed ideas with *jobactive* providers in your region.

You should also note that *jobactive* providers are not required to refer individuals to approved non-government programs, but may do so where the program is considered suitable and the person will benefit from participating. If there are costs involved with the program, *jobactive* providers must ensure the program represents value for money and meets departmental guidelines.

I would also encourage you to visit the AusTender (www.tenders.gov.au) and Community Grants (www.communitygrants.gov.au) websites, and subscribe to updates, for information on funding opportunities which may be available to you in the future.

Yours sincerely

Megan Purcell
Adviser – Employment Services

8 / 11 / 2017