



THE HON PETER MALINAUSKAS MP

PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mr Adrian Tembel
Chair, South Australian Productivity Commission
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Dear Mr Tembel

Please find enclosed a Notice of Inquiry into Positioning All South Australians to Share in the Benefits of Economic Growth, which sets out the terms of reference for the inquiry.

I thank you and the Commission in advance for your efforts in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely

Peter Malinauskas
PREMIER

17/2/2024

Attachment: Notice of Inquiry – Sharing the Benefits of Economic Growth with All South Australians

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION INQUIRY: POSITIONING ALL SOUTH AUSTRALIANS TO SHARE IN THE BENEFITS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

I, Peter Malinauskas, Premier, hereby request that the South Australian Productivity Commission (the Commission) undertake an inquiry into Positioning All South Australians to Share in the Benefits of Economic Growth.

Background

Over the past two years South Australia's underperformance in employment and job creation has turned around and the labour market is currently very strong. Unemployment is in line with the national average and there are 50,000 more South Australians in work in December 2023 than there were two years earlier.

At the same time, the strong labour market makes it hard for our state's businesses to find the skills they need to grow.

Furthermore, not all South Australians are being lifted up by this rising tide. Long-term unemployment has not fallen, with almost 12,000 South Australians unemployed for a year or longer. South Australians also account for a disproportionate share of those receiving unemployment benefits.

The ability to securing a job or start post-school education after leaving school is not evenly distributed across the state. Young people from disadvantaged areas are much less likely to attend university or go to TAFE. They are also more likely to leave school having neither found a job nor started post-school education.

If we can do a better job of helping people to identify the right education and training for them, and in supporting them to complete it, we can help reduce the number of South Australians excluded from secure jobs. And we can help better position the state's businesses to take advantage of the emerging economic opportunities such as the AUKUS submarine build and the potential for green minerals production.

Reforms my Government is putting in place to early childhood education, to the state's universities, and to TAFE SA will help ensure training is available to give South Australians the skills they need for the future and contribute to achieving a more equal society.

However, improving economic participation amongst disadvantaged South Australians depends on policy managed by a number of government agencies and non-government providers. To ensure these activities are appropriately coordinated I have asked the South Australian Productivity Commission to undertake an independent, evidence-based review to draw together the relevant knowledge, data and the experiences of agencies and program providers. This will have a particular focus on policies that can help support disadvantaged South Australians engage with work and with society.

Terms of reference

The Commission is asked to consider and report on:

1. Why the strong growth in jobs over the past two years has not had a greater impact on reducing the number of people in long-term unemployment and the number of unemployment benefit recipients in South Australia?

2. Does where people live make it harder to achieve a sustainable shift into employment, and to participate in post-school education?
3. What support and advice is being provided to help people find the right educational pathway for them, whether as school students or as adults thinking about changing careers or re-entering the workforce? What evidence is there for the effectiveness of these existing approaches?
4. What role can SA Government policy play in supporting more South Australians to access the education and acquire the skills they need for secure, high-paying, work?

Scope

In considering the above matters the Commission is expected to have regard to the South Australian Government's existing policies and initiatives around education and training such as the new Technical Colleges, as well as relevant Commonwealth Government policies.

Inquiry process

The Commission will seek input from relevant experts (including from within the South Australian Government) and draw on prior work conducted in this field. The inquiry should consider examples of state government policies in other states that effectively complemented Commonwealth Government programs to assist those who are economically inactive, and international best practice in measures to support access to education, training and transition into work.

The Commission will consult widely with relevant public and private organisations, unions and community groups in South Australia and other jurisdictions. Understanding the differing experiences of South Australians based on where they live will also be important.

The Commission is to publish a draft report containing recommendations for consultative purposes. A final report is to be provided to me no later than Thursday, 5 December 2024.



Peter Malinauskas
PREMIER

18 / 12 / 2024