

## EDUCATION REFORMS SCRAPPED: A BULLET DODGED

The industry association representing Australia's infrastructure design firms has joined other Scrap the Cap Alliance members in applauding the repeal of a proposed self-education expenses cap.

Consult Australia CEO, Megan Motto said that the move is a critical step towards restoring business confidence in government and is a 'bullet dodged' for professionals, firms and government alike.

"The business community was united in opposition to this proposed cap: recognising the acute impact it would have had across industries and sectors," said Ms Motto.

"Today consulting firms operating in the built and natural environment have breathed a sigh of relief.

"The proposed cap put all at risk: particularly regionally-based workers, and those parents returning to work who have even greater education needs.

"The unintended consequence of this cap would have been a dumbing-down of the Australian workforce with a consequential negative impact on workforce productivity.

"The wide-spread backlash against the cap was a strong indication that governments should consult with business before making hasty decisions.

"Consult Australia is pleased that the Government has listened to business and we look forward to continued genuine consultation on this and all issues into the future."

### Ends

6 November 2013

For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact Consult Australia's PR & Policy Advisor, Gillian O'Young on 02 8252 6715 or via email at [gillian@consultaustalia.com.au](mailto:gillian@consultaustalia.com.au).

### About Consult Australia

Consult Australia is the leading not-for-profit association that represents the business interests of consulting firms operating in the built and natural environment.

Our member firms include: Aurecon, Aquenta, Beca, Cox Architects, GHD, Hyder Consulting, MWH, Norman Disney & Young, Sinclair Knight Merz, SMEC and WorleyParsons.

We represent an industry comprising some 48,000 firms across Australia, ranging from sole practitioners through to some of Australia's top 500 firms. Collectively, our industry is estimated to employ over 240,000 people, and generate combined revenue exceeding \$40 billion a year.