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The Research Director
Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services & Emergency Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Email: lapcsesc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir / Madam

Re: Calls for Submissions for Enquiry into Bills

The Auctioneers & Valuers Association of Australia Incorporated (AVAA) is the leading National Body of Auctioneers & Valuers of goods, chattels, plant and equipment. Incorporated in 1952, the AVAA has been instrumental in establishing and maintaining the high level of professionalism found in the industry in Australia.

The AVAA firmly believes that auctioneering is a skill that requires a mix of sound education and experience in order to develop. There are no 'second chances' on the auction stand and licensed auctioneers must display a high level of competence.

The following is a summary of points that the AVAA would like to submit for consideration by the committee. We would be happy to attend any meetings to discuss these points in more detail.

Education of Licensees

Education should consist of both theory and practical components. It is the AVAA's view that practical experience (even in a mock set up) is essential before any formal appointments are taken as a full license holder. Provisional licensing is an option.

Current education programs are heavily weighted towards real property i.e. real estate – future education modules must address the broad and varied nature of goods and chattels – i.e. from machinery to fine art. (The AVAA has developed courses and programs for the education of chattel auctioneers, which may be of interest.)

Trust Accounting

The AVAA believes that it is in the best interest of all parties for trust account procedures to remain in place for agent auctioneers.

Appointments

Provision for ‘ongoing appointments’ should be made in the formal appointment documentation.

Code of Ethics

The current code of ethics should remain in place.

Costs

Costs of licensing should be kept to a minimum, with a single fee and process for joint real-estate/goods and chattels licenses.

Recognition

Many auctioneers travel the country with their skill and it would be beneficial for licence holders to attain a national qualification. We believe that it is best practice for the committee to consider legislation that allows qualification recognition in states outside of Queensland – moving towards a future national license.

Yours sincerely



Christine Conquest
National Secretary