



12 September 2025

Letter of Support:
Retention of Mandatory Hairdressing Qualifications

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of The Australia Hairdressing Council (AHC), I write to express our strong support for the **retention of mandatory qualifications** in the hairdressing and barbering industry, and our full endorsement of the **SAHBA ORS (South Australia Hair & Beauty Association – Occupational Regulation System)** as a framework for professional regulation and industry integrity.

This is a highly skilled trade that contributes over **\$3 billion annually** to the Australian economy, alongside immeasurable value to community wellbeing, confidence, and employment. Professionals in this industry handle hazardous chemicals, electrical equipment, and sharp tools. Without formal training, public safety is at risk.

Mandatory qualifications:

- **Protect consumer safety**, through proper training in hygiene, chemical handling, and tool use.
- **Support career pathways**, fair wages, and professional recognition.
- **Reduce business risk**, by ensuring compliance, insurance coverage, and WorkCover protection.
- **Sustain training systems**, including apprenticeships and TAFE delivery.
- **Preserve migration integrity**, by upholding nationally recognised skill standards.

Deregulation would invite unsafe services, wage suppression, insurance liabilities, and a collapse in apprenticeship completions. It would repeat the mistakes of the early 2000s, when unregulated training pathways led to widespread industry harm and exploitation.

Hairdressing is more than a service - it's a trusted trade, a pathway to small business ownership, and a lifeline for many clients' wellbeing. It must be protected through the continued requirement for nationally recognised qualifications.

We urge the Commission to maintain mandatory qualifications as a foundation for professionalism, safety, and sustainability in the hairdressing and barbering sector.

Sincerely,



Fiona Beamish

Chief Executive Officer

Australian Hairdressing Council