

Call for solution to skills and jobs mismatch

KWINANA Industries Council (KIC) has called on the Federal Government to set up a joint working group to resolve the region's high unemployment and improve training in areas of severe future skills shortage.

A KIC submission to the Bradley Higher Education Review said the gap between the employ-

ment needs of local industry and the skills of the local population had widened.

KIC director Chris Oughton said a co-ordinated approach to match educational outcomes with desired industry skills was needed.

"What we are proposing is with Federal Government support we

form a team of key stakeholders to devise a local solution," he said.

Mr Oughton said the group should include representatives from Tafe, universities and secondary schools, community groups, industry and government.

The group would look at ways to get students focused on careers in industry from an early age, in-

cluding more specific upper-school programs to target areas of skills shortage.

"We have got a whole bunch of people who are not connecting into industry," Mr Oughton said.

"The local Tafe and secondary school system is potentially capable of meeting the area's needs, but is currently under resourced to

tackle it." The working group would also consider whether KIC's proposed Industry Technology Education Centre was part of the solution.

"We have all the right ingredients here for a world-class solution to be found and we are working towards that," he said.

Nicole Stevens