OPPOSITION TO THE EARLY CLOSURE OF TCF PROGRAMS

The Council of Textile Fashion Industries of Australia (TFIA) is disappointed to hear that the legislation to prematurely terminate the textile, clothing and footwear (TCF) programs in accordance with the recent Federal Budget announcements was passed through the House of Representatives earlier today and is concerned about the effects this decision will have on the sector.

“We were disappointed to hear the Programs were to be cut early as part of the recent budget.” said TFIA CEO Kiri Delly. “Both the TCF Small Business Grant and the Building Innovation Capability (BIC) Scheme were expected to run until 2015 and there was no prior indication given that this commitment would not be honoured. Letters have been sent to a number of people involved in this decision, including Minister McFarlane as Minister for Industry, expressing our and our members’ concerns on this matter and requesting this decision be overturned.”

“While the program cutting decision impacts on the final year of the scheduled TCF Program period only, and would relate to expenditure yet to be incurred; with the BIC Scheme in particular, industry decisions on innovation expenditure are undertaken with longer term horizons than just the current year.” said Ms Delly. “Much of the innovative design and innovative processes that have already been committed by TCF companies for projects in the current year would also extend into the next financial year. By passing this Bill companies will no longer receive expected returns on that investment and this undermines both existing activities and intended activities for next year.”

“Early termination undermines the original intentions of the Programs and they should be able to run as originally committed.” stated Ms Delly. “By allowing the Program to deliver on its potential would allow innovative Australian TCF businesses to continue playing a significant and competitive role both domestically and globally. The TFIA will therefore continue lobbying on this matter as it now goes to the Senate.”

### ENDS ###

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TFIA is the peak Australian TCF industry body. It is a member driven non-profit association that was first established in the 1940s to provide an umbrella organisation with a focal point for a number of sector specific associations. Today the TFIA represents the whole TCF industry and provides effective and influential representation to Government on TCF issues such as industry, trade, environment, education and training. www.tfia.com.au