

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000130

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

VET Advisory Board

Question

"1. The term of the current members of the VET Advisory Board are due to expire in June 2015. Has the Department prepared briefings on the replacement of current board members?

2. Will the Board continue?

3. Will the current members remain on the Board?

4. Will the new Board be as Queensland-centric as the previous Board (1 – NSW / 1 – VIC and 3 - Qld)?

5. Will the new Board be comprised of five members?

6. Is the Government considering expanding the representation to hear voices from students in the sector, unions and professional organisations?

Will the Government take the opportunity to reintroduce a tripartite approach to advice from the sector? At present the Minister only receives advice from employers and industry which is limited in its scope.

7. What level of funding is allocated to the Board?"

Answer

1. The terms of the members of the VET Advisory Board are due to expire in August 2015. The Department has not prepared such briefing. The *Vocational Education and Training Advisory Board* was established to provide advice directly from industry to the Government and strengthen the links between industry and the skills sector, to simplify governance arrangements, and provide direct industry input into key policy decisions.

2. The future of the Board is a matter for the Minister.

3. See 2 above.

4. See 2 above.

5. See 2 above.

6. See 2 above. Since September 2013, the Government has undertaken significant and broad consultation as part of VET reform. Students, industry, unions, RTOs and professional associations have all been represented at a range of sessions, including the COAG industry forum on 8 May 2015.

7. Board members are not remunerated. The Department reimburses reasonable expenses incurred while undertaking business travel in accordance with departmental travel policy. Travel assistance reimbursed to Board members since its establishment to 31 March 2015 totals \$10,072.