

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Additional Budget Estimates Hearing 2013-14
27 February 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: Skills Workshops - Agenda

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 27 February 2014, page 76)

QUESTION No.: AI-26

Senator KIM CARR: Was there a formal agenda for the workshops? Is that publicly available?

Ms Furnell: The agenda was sent to participants. It was not publicly available.

Senator KIM CARR: So, it is not public?

Ms Furnell: We did not make it publicly available. I understand there may have been a copy circulated by a participant.

Senator KIM CARR: Was there a program issued?

Ms Furnell: There was an agenda provided to participants.

Senator KIM CARR: An agenda, is that publicly available?

Ms Furnell: We did not make it publicly available. It was a summary of comments.

Senator KIM CARR: Would you provide me with a copy of the agenda for those meetings?

Ms Furnell: I will take that on notice.

ANSWER

The agendas of all the Canberra workshops are **Attachment A**.

SKILLS WORKSHOP AGENDA – REGISTERED TRAINING ORGANISATIONS

Workshop 1: Tuesday 4 February 2014, 2.00pm – 5.00pm

Workshop 2: Thursday 6 February 2014, 9.30am – 12.30pm

9.00/1.30	TEA AND COFFEE ON ARRIVAL
9.30/2.00	Welcome
9.35/2.05	Objectives: to develop a shared understanding of the role of the VET sector in addressing skills needs and to discuss reform directions into the future.
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION	
<i>MEETING AUSTRALIA'S SKILLS NEEDS</i>	
9.45/2.15	<p>Into the future, Australia is going to need a workforce that is more highly skilled and more mobile. What features of the VET system will help us to meet this challenge?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will this be different across different types of qualifications and skills for particular occupations or industry sectors, or for certain students such as new or existing employees? • How does the VET sector fit alongside other training options (eg non accredited training) or higher education in this respect?
<i>THE VET SECTOR NOW AND IN THE FUTURE</i>	
10.15/2.45	<p>There has been significant change occurring in the VET sector over the last decade as a more competitive market is being developed with: national standards and regulation for providers and training products; more competitive and demand driven funding arrangements; and better informed consumers.</p> <p>How well is the sector performing now? What would you change within the system to better support you to meet the needs of local employers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What parts of the sector are working well? • What are the areas of concern? • What role do you see for the Australian Skills Quality Authority in improving the quality of training outcomes? • What could be the future shape of the sector? • What are the tests for success of future changes?
10.45/3.15	MORNING/AFTERNOON TEA
<i>PRIORITY AREAS FOR THE FUTURE TO IMPROVE THE OPERATION OF THE VET SECTOR</i>	
11.15/3.45	<p>Based on the areas identified in the previous item what actions could be taken by the different participants in the system (governments, business, providers, students)? What should be the priorities for reform in a resource constrained environment?</p> <p>Additional possible areas for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student outcomes compared to employer needs. • Responsiveness of the VET system to the needs of industry. • Sharing the benefits from and funding of training. • Regulation of training products. • Interaction and incentive effects between different aspects of the system.
12.00/4.30	Opportunity for open comments from attendees
12.20/4.50	Wrap up and key messages
12.30/5.00	MEETING CLOSES

SKILLS WORKSHOP AGENDA – INDUSTRY GROUPS

Workshop 1: Tuesday 4 February 2014, 9.30am – 12.30pm

Workshop 2: Thursday 6 February 2.00pm – 5.00pm

9.00/1.30	TEA AND COFFEE ON ARRIVAL
9.30/2.00	Welcome
9.35/2.05	Objectives: to develop a shared understanding of the role of the VET sector in addressing skills needs and to discuss reform directions into the future.
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION	
<i>MEETING AUSTRALIA'S SKILLS NEEDS</i>	
9.45/2.15	<p>What are employers telling you about the way they use the VET sector to meet their workforce needs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you see as the future skill shortage areas? • Does this play out differently across different types of qualifications and skills for particular occupations or industry sectors, or for certain students such as new or existing employees? • How does the VET sector fit alongside other training options (eg unaccredited training) or higher education?
<i>THE VET SECTOR NOW AND IN THE FUTURE</i>	
10.15/2.45	<p>There are a number of changes occurring in the VET sector as a more competitive market is being developed with: national standards and regulation for providers and training products; more competitive and demand driven funding arrangements; and better informed consumers.</p> <p>How well is the sector performing now and what changes may be needed for the future?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the core outcomes that the VET sector should be seeking to achieve? • What parts of the sector are working well? • What are your key areas of concern? • One of the concerns consistently raised with the Government is that VET graduates do not have the skills and knowledge required in the workplace. How would you improve the quality of training outcomes? • What are the tests for success of future changes?
10.45/3.15	MORNING/AFTERNOON TEA
<i>PRIORITY AREAS FOR THE FUTURE TO IMPROVE THE OPERATION OF THE VET SECTOR</i>	
11.15/3.45	<p>Based on the areas identified in the previous item what improvements or changes would you make to the VET sector to better respond to industry needs? What should be the priorities for reform in a resource constrained environment?</p> <p>Additional possible areas for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student outcomes compared to employer needs. • Responsiveness of the VET system to the needs of industry. • Partnering with RTOs. • Sharing the benefits from and funding of training. • Regulation of providers and training products. • Interaction and incentive effects between different aspects of the system.
12.00/4.30	Opportunity for open comments from attendees
12.20/4.50	Wrap up and key messages
12.30/5.00	MEETING CLOSES

SKILLS WORKSHOP AGENDA – AUSTRALIAN APPRENTICESHIPS CENTRES

Wednesday 5 February 2014, 9.30am – 12.30pm

9.00	TEA AND COFFEE ON ARRIVAL
9.30	Welcome
9.35	Objectives: to develop a shared understanding of the role of Australian Apprenticeship support services in addressing skills needs and to discuss reform directions into the future.
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION	
<i>MEETING AUSTRALIA'S SKILLS NEEDS</i>	
9.45	<p>What key contributions do Australian Apprenticeship support services make in meeting the skills needs of Australian apprentices?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where do AACs see student and employer demands – including industry demand for apprentices; individual demand to become an apprentice? • How responsive is the VET sector in providing 'job ready' skills to Australian Apprentices? • How do you identify quality RTOs? How could quality RTO information be better captured? • How well does the apprenticeship system respond to the needs of enterprises and the economy – i.e. does VET sign off of competence match industries perspective of competence? • What is the best way for AACs to market Australian Apprenticeships? Should a single brand be used?
<i>THE APPRENTICESHIPS SYSTEM NOW AND IN THE FUTURE</i>	
10.15	<p>How well is the apprenticeships system performing and what changes may be needed for the future?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What parts of the apprenticeships system are working well? • What are the areas of concern? • What could be the future shape of the apprenticeships system? • What are the tests for success of future changes?
10.45	MORNING TEA
<i>PRIORITY AREAS FOR THE FUTURE TO IMPROVE THE STANDING OF APPRENTICESHIPS</i>	
11.15	<p>Based on the areas identified in the previous item what actions can all stakeholders (government, industry, employers, training providers, AACs) take to improve the standing of apprenticeships as a career path for Australians? What should be the priorities for reform in a resource constrained environment?</p> <p>Additional possible areas for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for apprentices, employers – including career and training advice, mentoring, pastoral care, incentives, wage support • The role of pre-apprenticeships and other preparatory training (including LLN) • The role of school-based apprenticeships • Reducing the complexity of the apprenticeships system • Student outcomes compared to employer needs • Responsiveness of training products to the needs of industry • Sharing the benefits from and funding of training • Regulation of providers and training products (training packages and accredited courses) • Interaction and incentive effects between different aspects of the system
12.00	Opportunity for open comments from attendees
12.20	Wrap up and key messages
12.30	MEETING CLOSES

SKILLS WORKSHOP AGENDA – INDUSTRY SKILLS COUNCILS

Wednesday 5 February 2014, 2.00pm – 5.00pm

1.30	TEA AND COFFEE ON ARRIVAL
2.00	Welcome
2.05	Objectives: to develop a shared understanding of the role of the VET sector in addressing skills needs and to discuss reform directions into the future.
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION	
<i>MEETING AUSTRALIA'S SKILLS NEEDS</i>	
2.15	<p>What features of the current VET system are assisting industry to meet their current and future workforce needs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does this play out differently across different types of qualifications and skills for particular occupations or industry sectors, or for certain students such as new or existing employees? • How does the VET sector fit alongside other training options (eg unaccredited training) or higher education? • What is the role of VET in foundation skills, technical competence and workplace capabilities?
<i>THE VET SECTOR NOW AND IN THE FUTURE</i>	
2.45	<p>There are a number of changes occurring in the VET sector as a more competitive market is being developed with: national standards and regulation for providers and training products; more competitive and demand driven funding arrangements; and better informed consumers.</p> <p>How well is the sector performing now and what changes may be needed for the future?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given your experience in the sector, how would you improve the quality of training outcomes? • What role should Industry Skills Councils play in workforce planning and workforce development? • Given your experience with the National Workforce Development Fund to date, what improvements could be made to the delivery of workforce development and training programs? • Are there other areas of concern? • What could be the future shape of the sector? • What are the tests for success of future changes?
3.15	AFTERNOON TEA
<i>PRIORITY AREAS FOR THE FUTURE TO IMPROVE THE OPERATION OF THE VET SECTOR</i>	
3.45	<p>Based on the areas identified in the previous item what actions could be taken by the different participants in the system (governments, business, providers, students)? What should be the priorities for reform in a resource constrained environment?</p> <p>Additional possible areas for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student outcomes compared to employer needs. • Responsiveness of the VET system to the needs of industry. • Sharing the benefits from and funding of training. • Regulation of providers and training products. • Interaction and incentive effects between different aspects of the system.
4.30	Opportunity for open comments from attendees
4.50	Wrap up and key messages
5.00	MEETING CLOSES