

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 – Attendees

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 27 February 2014, pages 77-78)

QUESTION No.: AI-27

Senator KIM CARR: You mentioned before that in the original workshops there were people from the various skills councils. Is that what you are saying? Can you give me a list of who actually turned up to the meetings?

Ms Furnell: I will take that on notice. I do not have that with me.

Senator KIM CARR: You said they were union people.

Ms Furnell: Some of the people on the Industry Skills Council are from unions.

Senator KIM CARR: Can you name them?

Ms Furnell: I cannot off the top of my head. I just know that some of them were. I cannot remember exactly which ones.

Senator KIM CARR: I would be interested to know precisely who you mean was from the union and present at the meeting.

Ms Furnell: They hold a position on the Industry Skills Council.

Senator KIM CARR: It would not be hard to identify who the union nominees are on the Industry Skills Council, would it?

Ms Furnell: I have to check that as you asked me which ones.

Senator KIM CARR: Yes, if you could please, I would appreciate that. I cannot see why that in itself would be secret.

Senator Ronaldson: Senator, is that running contrary to what you have been told?

Senator KIM CARR: Yes, very much so. This is my point. The story that the officers are providing to me is very different from what I have been told. That does not mean that I am right and you are wrong. I am just saying to you, based on the correspondence I have got from the Australian Council of Trade Unions, signed by the President of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, to the minister to say that unions were not participating in this conference, these six workshops.

Senator Ronaldson: We need to be careful. The ACTU, of course, is a particular body. I think what the officers have said is that there were people from the ISC who were union representatives. Let's take it on notice.

ANSWER

Mr Ray Barker from Skills DMC (the Resources and Infrastructure Industry Skills Council) attended the Canberra workshop on 5 February 2014. Mr Barker is the chair of the Skills DMC Board and represents the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU).

Mr Ian Blanthorn from Service Skills Australia attended the Canberra workshop on 5 February 2014. Mr Blanthorn is the chair of the Service Skills Australia and represents the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association.