

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

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

**TOPIC:** Skills Workshops – Participants Meeting with the Minister for Industry

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 27 February 2014, page78)

**QUESTION No.:** AI-28

**Senator KIM CARR:** On 5 February, The Australian reported that there was a meeting at Parliament House following the workshops—it involved industry groups, but not unions—with the minister. This is a report on 5 February this year. Is that report accurate?

**Ms Furnell:** The minister meets with a range of stakeholders all the time, so—

**Senator KIM CARR:** Regarding this matter.

**Ms Furnell:** Which matter?

**Senator KIM CARR:** Following the conference, these workshops on 5 February, was there a meeting with the minister involving the participants? That should be a fairly straightforward matter for you to be able to take on notice.

**Ms Furnell:** Are you saying that the meeting was on 5 February or the report?

**Senator KIM CARR:** The report was on 5 February. I am talking about a report in The Australian on 5 February 2014. It claims:

They follow a Parliament House meeting last week involving Industry Minister Ian Macfarlane and provider and industry groups, but not unions.

That occurred following the workshops. Is that true?

**Senator Ronaldson:** We do not have that report. We will take it on notice and get back to you.

**Senator KIM CARR:** Thank you.

**Ms Furnell:** I have the article. Is this the article in The Australian on 5 February by John Ross, which refers to—

**Senator KIM CARR:** That is the one.

**Ms Furnell:** It refers to a meeting with the minister.

**Senator KIM CARR:** We have the same article.

**Senator Ronaldson:** We will take the nature and extend of the meeting on notice.

**Dr Banerjee:** Ms Furnell has already explained that there was a ministerial roundtable, and that that was a separate process to the workshops that the department ran.

**Senator KIM CARR:** Thank you, very much.

## **ANSWER**

On 29 January 2014 Minister Macfarlane at Parliament House, held a roundtable with senior industry figures, to hear their views on the Vocational Education Training (VET) sector. Attendees included:

- Industry peak bodies and employer groups;
- VET sector peak bodies;
- Industry Skills Councils;
- The Group Training Network; and
- Australian Apprenticeship Centres.