

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: National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform – Implementation of the Agreement with Tafe

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 27 February 2014, page 80)

QUESTION No.: AI-30

Senator Carr: Can you give me the wording of the agreement and how you see it as an officer in terms of implementation of the agreement, in terms of the public provision of TAFE? Are you able to do that?

Ms Woodgate: I do not, unfortunately, have a copy of the NP with me.

Senator Carr: Take it on notice. I want to know what your position is in terms of the implementation of those agreements on the issue of the public provision of TAFE, consistent with the agreement—I am not asking you to go beyond the agreement—in terms of what the agreement actually requires of you.

Ms Woodgate: In terms of administering the agreement, how we work with that particular clause?

Senator Carr: Yes, thank you.

ANSWER

The National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform (Clause 29.b) states: ...

29. Jurisdictions will improve the efficiency and responsiveness of the VET system through:

- b. development and implementation of strategies which enable public providers to operate effectively in an environment of greater competition, recognising their important function in servicing the training needs of industry, regions and local communities, and their role that spans high level training and workforce development for industries and improved skill and job outcomes for disadvantaged learners and communities.

In bilateral Implementation Plans agreed with the Australian Government, jurisdictions outlined strategies to give effect to Clause 29(b). These strategies are set out in milestones for calendar year 2012 to 2016, and jurisdictions are required to report annually to the Commonwealth against these milestones. Payments under the Skills Reform NP are linked to the satisfactory achievement of milestones. State and Territory Implementation Plans can be accessed at <http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/npa/skills.aspx>.