

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2009-2010**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education

DEEWR Question No. EW1085_10

Senator Cormann asked on 11/03/2010, Hansard page 118.

Question

***INDUSTRY SKILLS COUNCILS' ROLE IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT –
NAMES OF ISCs INVOLVED***

Senator CORMANN—Can you talk to me about the skills councils' role in workforce development? Ms Taylor—They have a limited role in workforce development under our funding agreements. They may be contracted by other agencies to have a workforce development role and that has happened in the case of a couple of ISCs. The names escape me at the moment but I will get those for you. They do an environmental scan of their industries and of course that is funded as part of their contract. They are looking at the workforce needs, but workforce development in its broader sense. Skills are part of that, but workforce development is a broader issue.

Answer

The role of the ISCs in workforce development was established for the first time in the Skilling Australia for the Future policy. The new role was included in the ISCs' current Funding Agreement 2008-2011. ISCs are currently required to:

- provide integrated industry intelligence and advice to Skills Australia, government and enterprises on workforce development and skills needs (which is done mainly through annual Environmental Scans developed by ISCs); and
- provide independent skills and training advice to enterprises, including matching identified training needs with appropriate training solutions.

In fulfilling these requirements:

- All ISC develop Environmental Scans.
- The majority of ISCs have focussed their activity around the development of instruments and online tools to assist individual organisations to identify workforce skills needs and conduct training needs analyses.
- Some ISCs have been involved in high level strategic workforce development roles. These ISCs are:
 - Service Skills Australia ISC - developed a Tourism and Hospitality Workforce Development Strategy in 2009.
 - The Transport and Logistics ISC (T&LISC) - participated in early discussions with the Australian Transport Council of federal, state and territory transport ministers, which is leading the development of a *National Transport and Logistics Industry Workforce Planning and Skills Strategic Action Plan* for the transport industry.