

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Outcome 3

DEEWR Question No. EW583_10

Senator Colbeck provided in writing.

Question

Insights gained by DEEWR through the establishment of ForestWorks Industry Skills Council

What insight has the Department gained through the Forest Industry Skills Council's establishment and how has the knowledge translated to improving skills training for this industry?

Answer

ForestWorks ISC is responsible for the development and continuous improvement of two Training Packages:

- FPI 05 Forest and Forest Products Training Package
- FPP01 Pulp and Paper Industry Training Package

Training Packages comprise nationally endorsed components for training and assessment of specific industries, industry sectors or enterprises that are used for developing and recognizing people's competencies. Rigorous development and endorsement policies and processes, and the involvement of industry throughout those processes, ensure that the high standard of Training Packages, their responsiveness to industry needs and requirements of current practices and technologies.

Work is progressing on updating these Training Packages with new versions expected to be presented to the National Quality Council for endorsement early in 2010. The consultation process involved in the updating of Training Packages is quite rigorous and involves consultation with a range of stakeholders including employers, unions, technical groups, and training organisations. Information gathered through this consultation process forms the basis for the rewriting of training competency standards and support materials to reflect current practices and technologies. All this is integral to meeting the current and prospective skills development needs of industry and business.

ForestWorks ISC, like any other ISCs, also has a role in providing integrated industry intelligence and advice to Skills Australia, government and enterprises on workforce development and skills needs, which assist with planning in this areas. The provision of Environmental Scan, which is a comprehensive snapshot of the industry and industry sectors, also forms the basis for the following year's continuous improvement plan for Training Packages.