

Joint Committee on the National Broadband Network**Answers to Questions on Notice****Public Hearing 5 July 2011****Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio****Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy****Question No: 9****Hansard Ref: JC page 18****Topic: Retraining****Mr Husic asked:**

...in relation to the \$100 million that is being set aside for training with Telstra. Would you explain your understanding of how that \$100 million is being used and the performance indicators, if you will, where you feel Telstra will have satisfied its end of the bargain, so to speak, in training people to work with fibre as opposed to copper ...What are the milestones that you referred to?

Answer:

On 20 June 2010 it was announced that NBN Co and Telstra had reached a Financial Heads of Agreement relating to the development of the National Broadband Network (NBN). In support of the Agreement, the Australian Government committed, among other things, to provide \$100 million to Telstra to assist it in the retraining and redeployment of Telstra staff affected by reforms to the structure of the telecommunications industry, including to enable their transition to employment in deploying and supporting a fibre network.

Under the Retraining Deed set to conclude 20 June 2019, Telstra will give priority to retraining staff who currently work on the copper and HFC networks and staff whose roles are linked to supporting the copper and HFC networks including the wholesale copper workforce and the direct field support workforce. Telstra will give priority to retraining Telstra employees in NBN related technical, process and system activities. Telstra will provide a Training Plan covering three years including training targets that will set out the skills required and the training courses to be developed or refreshed. Six months prior to the cessation of the then current Training Plan Telstra will submit the next Training Plan to the Department for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy for review.

Not less than 70 per cent of funds spent in any three years of a Training Plan must go towards the development and delivery of Accredited Training Courses by a Registered Training Organisation.

Telstra must provide an annual Budget for the financial year ahead and audited financial reports annually. Telstra must also provide six monthly reports on progress against the Training Plan and a more detailed annual report on progress against the Training Plan. Telstra will meet with the Department each six months and, unless agreed otherwise, hold quarterly meetings with its Unions which the Department will attend as an observer.