

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2014-15
2-3 June 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: ACTU Involvement in Skills Workshops

REFERENCE: Written Questions – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: BI-207

In answer to Question AI-141 in Additional Budget Estimates (February 2014), the Department confirmed that the ACTU had written to the Minister on 4 March 2014. The ACTU had previously written to the Minister on 25 September 2013 and received a response on 7 November 2013. During the Additional Budget Estimates in February, the Department advised that invitations for the first round of Skills Workshops were issued to stakeholders who had written to the Minister. While understanding that the ACTU was subsequently invited to participate in future rounds of workshops, can the Government advise why the ACTU was omitted from the invitation list for the first round of Skills Workshops? Was this a deliberate omission or an oversight? Was the ACTU on any draft invitation list submitted to the Minister's office for consideration?

ANSWER

As noted in the response to Question AI-141, the first round of national workshops held in Canberra were targeted specifically to:

- Australian Apprenticeships Centres;
- Industry Skills Councils; and
- employers and registered training organisations that had previous contact with the VET Reform Taskforce.

As the ACTU does not fall within these target groups, the draft invitation list sent to the Minister's office for consideration did not list the ACTU.