

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

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: Commonwealth Involvement in the VET Sector

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: BI-212

In answering Question AI-144 Additional Budget Estimates (February 2014), the Department advised that there were no proposals to remove Commonwealth involvement from the VET sector. The Commission of Audit was subsequently released and states “The Commission believes it would make sense for the Commonwealth to pull back from its involvement in vocational education and training, with a view to providing full policy responsibility to the States”.

Has the government asked for proposals or models for new divisions of responsibility between the Commonwealth and the States? Will the Minister be responding to the Vocational Education and Training recommendations and statements in the Commission of Audit? Will that be made publicly available? If so, when?

ANSWER

The Commission of Audit report was a valuable contribution to public debate and policy formulation. It should be noted, however, that it was a report to Government rather than a report or series of decisions by the Government. The Minister will therefore not be responding specifically to the recommendations and statements in the report.

The issue of divisions of responsibility between the Commonwealth and the States is a broader one that will be considered as part of the White Paper on the Reform of the Federation. The Terms of Reference for the White Paper were announced by the Prime Minister on 28 June 2014.