

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

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: National Vet Equity Advisory Council

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: BI-214

On 3 April 2014 it was decided by the inaugural meeting of the COAG Industry and Skills Council to dissolve the National VET Equity Advisory Council. Will there be a new Ministerial advisory body to advise Ministers on access and equity? If not, who will be responsible for providing advice to Ministers on these issues? Will reports such as the National Report on Social Equity in VET 2013 continue to be provided? Will they be released publicly? Will there still be a focus on access and equity?

ANSWER

The COAG Industry and Skills Council is yet to determine if there will be an advisory body on access and equity issues. COAG, in establishing new council structures, has asked each council to consider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advancement as part of their deliberations.

Consideration of access and equity issues will form part of mainstream advice provided to Ministers, especially as all governments are committed to improving access to, and participation in, vocational education and training for all Australians.

Reports such as the National Report on Social Equity in VET will no longer be produced.

Under the National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform, the Commonwealth has committed \$1.75 billion over five years from 2012 to support state and territory governments in creating a more accessible training system. Under the National Partnership states are required to identify two additional targets such as cumulative increase in commencements, completions or equivalent full time students in areas of priority such as rural and remote areas, students with disability or from low socio-economic status backgrounds, groups of policy focus (e.g. long term unemployed, youth, single and teen parents or mature aged workers), or in a skills priority area. There are also mandatory targets under the National Partnership focussed on improving commencements and completions for Indigenous Australians.