

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-15
22 October 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: Training courses – Job Services Act

REFERENCE: Written Question– Senator Nick Xenophon

QUESTION No.: SI-209

How does the Federal Government determine which training courses to provide funding for?

ANSWER

The Australian Government has allocated \$3.3 billion in 2014-15 in total direct Commonwealth funding for skills. This includes \$1.8 billion to states and territories for the operation of the training systems in their jurisdictions and \$1.4 billion to Commonwealth programmes. Jurisdictions are responsible for the operation of their training systems, including student eligibility and access to public subsidies, and the setting of strategic priorities for the delivery of courses and qualifications.

The Australian Government has also identified a number of immediate priority areas for the new \$476 million Industry Skills Fund, which will commence on 1 January 2015. These are food and agribusiness; mining equipment, technology and services; medical technologies and pharmaceuticals; oil and gas; and advanced manufacturing. Training outside these sectors is still eligible for funding if it meets the programme objectives. Information on the Industry Skills Fund can be found at www.business.gov.au/industryskillsfund.