

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000552

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

National Foundation Skills Strategy for Adults

Question

The National Foundation Skills Strategy for Adults was endorsed by COAG under the previous government. The copy available online (<http://www.industry.gov.au/AboutUs/Documents/COAG-Industry-and-Skills-Council/Former-SCOTese/National-Foundation-Skills-Strategy-for-Adults.pdf> - see attached) states it is still current, but refers to the role of AWPAs, an agency abolished by the current government, as well as the roles of Industry Skills Councils, also abolished by the current government. Can you explain why this is so

Answer

The functions of the Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency (AWPA) were brought into the then Department of Industry on 30 June 2014. These functions were subsequently shifted to the Department of Education and Training as part of machinery of government changes.

New arrangements for training package development were announced on 27 January 2016 and under these arrangements, Industry Skills Councils (ISCs) have been replaced by Skills Service Organisations (SSOs). These arrangements consist of the Australian Industry and Skills Committee making decisions based on grass roots industry intelligence from Industry Reference Committees who are supported by their SSOs.

COAG documents are not generally updated to reflect administrative changes of governments.