

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000497

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform

Question

I refer to the Commonwealth's proposal to develop new Terms of Reference out of session for the review of the National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform, following the COAG Industry and Skills Council meeting on 8 May.

- (a) Will you guarantee that funding will be available for a future National Partnership following its expiry in 2017?
- (b) Can you guarantee that improving the quality of skills training will be a key focus for a future National Partnership?
- (c) Can you guarantee that supporting public TAFEs will be a key focus for a future National Partnership?
- (d) Will you guarantee that the needs of individual jurisdictions are paramount in the new National Partnership agreement, and that the Commonwealth will not seek to apply a 'one size fits all' approach to the VET sector?

Answer

The review of the National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform is required under the terms of the agreement signed in 2012. Clause 54 states:

A review of progress of both VET structural reforms and training outcomes will be completed by 31 December 2015, focusing in particular on the outcomes of transparency reforms and state reform of funding to providers and enterprises through the introduction of a national training entitlement and ICLs. The outcomes of the review may inform future Commonwealth-State funding arrangements.

A decision about any future National Partnership is a matter for the Government and will take into consideration current policy discussions, including the Reform of the Federation White Paper process.