

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
28 and 29 May 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Australian Skills Centres of Excellence

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Nash

QUESTION No.: BI-123

1. Where will the centres be located?
2. How does the Department see them working?
3. When will these centres be up and running?
4. Will each centre have a different focus?
5. What will they focus on?

ANSWER

1. A decision on the location of the centres will be made in the final competitive application process.
2. The aim of the Australian Skills Centres of Excellence initiative is to enable:
 - places or hubs for high quality teaching and learning in vocational qualifications that stimulate improvements in teaching and learning in these fields across Australia;
 - skills development and research designed to support innovation and the deployment of new technologies and production processes through businesses; and
 - strong alignment with an industry, characterised by shared governance and funding from industry and leading innovator enterprises.

Each centre will be able to access Australian Government funding of up to \$2 million per annum over a three year period. Australian Government funding will be complemented by co-investment from industry and/or state, territory or local governments.

3. It is anticipated that the three centres will be selected by June 2013 and will be established by January 2014. Depending on the business models, first student intakes may commence early in 2014.
4. Each centre will have a different industry focus.
5. The centres will focus on emerging industry sectors such as clean energy and advanced high technology manufacturing.