

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: COAG VET national partnership and national agreement on skills

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Rhiannon.

QUESTION No.: BI-225

The Minister also stated concern about the lack of transparency about such COAG negotiations in the past, particularly the lack of engagement with key stakeholders.

1. What concerns has TAFE, as a key stakeholder, expressed in these latest negotiations?
2. What extent of engagement has been had with student and teacher groups of TAFE, as probably the most important stakeholders?
3. What is the Commonwealth's response to these concerns and how will the Commonwealth ensure these concerns are resolved satisfactorily at each state and territory level?

ANSWER

1. & 2.

As part of the consultations held in association with the development of the new National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform, VET reform forums were held in state capital cities with a wide range of stakeholders, which included industry, students, and public and private training providers. In addition, Roundtables were held with industry representatives, including TAFE Directors Australia, to discuss issues related to the design of the reforms.

Issues relating to quality, transparency, access and equity and efficiency along with ways to improve the system were discussed. Matters relevant in each jurisdiction were also noted.

3. Through the National Partnership Agreement all states and territories have committed to recognising the important function of public providers in servicing the training needs of industry and those in regional and local communities. In particular, all states and territories have agreed to the:

“development and implementation of strategies which enable public providers to operate effectively in an environment of greater competition, recognising their important function in servicing the training needs of industry, regions and local communities, and their role that spans high level training and workforce development for industries and improved skill and job outcomes for disadvantaged learners and communities”.