

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.1 – Infrastructure funding for the post-compulsory system

DEST Question No. E263_05

Senator Johnston asked on 3 June, EWRE Hansard page 12.

Question:

In the context of asking about the problem in Western Australia with retention of apprentices, the Senator went on to ask about how industry skills councils tell us about retention in regional areas of apprentices after they graduate. Ms Gawler responded that it was part of their contractual requirements to provide advice on skill shortages, and offered to provide further advice.

Answer:

Industry Skills Councils

ANTA has provided the following response.

Industry Skills Councils are contracted by ANTA through annual funding agreements to:

- Assist industries, enterprises and their workforce to integrate skill development with business goals and support accurate industry intelligence on future directions – including provision of strategic advice on industry skills and training needs to the National Industry Skills Forum
- Actively support the development, implementation and continuous improvement of high quality, nationally recognised training products and services, including enhancing innovation, rationalising materials where there are cross-industry synergies, and improving efficiency

As part of this that are specifically asked to consider skill shortages in their industry, both current and emerging, and instigate action to deal with them before they become a problem. This is a new role for these type of national bodies. Skills Councils are expected to show evidence of industry skill demand being met in employment. Measures of this include industry take-up of recognised training and skilled individuals meeting enterprise skill needs and contributing to improved productivity. Reporting increased training enrolments is part of this but evidence of better industry performance is the primary goal. The data will not be disaggregated to report specifically on apprentices. Industry intelligence will support this, and feed into validation of a skills report for the industry that will contribute to the annual National Skills Report.

Regional data will be part of this process. This will be collected as part of the requirement for the Industry Skills Councils to develop sophisticated and sustainable regional, national and international *networks* with key research institutions, leading edge enterprises and industry bodies to support intelligence gathering and dissemination of industry strategies on skills development.