

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.1 – Funding for vocational education and training

DEST Question No. E622_07

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

- a. What is the (a) length (including start and end dates), (b) total value of the contract between the Government and each of the 10 Industry Skills Councils?
- b. On what date was the final evaluation report of the Industry Skills Councils received by (a) the Department and (b) the Minister?
- c. Which persons and/or organisations external to the Government was the evaluation report on the Industry Skills Councils distributed? On what date was the report provided to each of the persons and/or organisations referred to above?
- d. From which persons and/or organisations did DEST seek opinion on the operations or evaluation of the Industry Skills Councils? What was the start and end date of these contracts? What was the total value of the contracts?
- e. Has the Department been in discussions with any other Industry Skills Councils seeking a deed underwriting their operations similar to the deed provided to Agri-Foods?

Answer:

Industry Skills Councils

- a. Industry Skills Councils are contracted on a financial year basis. The contract for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 was extended for a further six months to 31 December 2006. Total values of each contract with individual Industry Skills Councils is outlined in the attached Table. ISCs are also eligible to compete for funds under other funding programs such as Industry Training Strategies Program (ITSP) Industry Pathfinder projects, National Industry Career Specialists network and Workplace English Language and Literacy projects.
- b. (a) The evaluation was undertaken by the Department. (b) The evaluation report was provided to Minister Hardgrave in the second half of 2006 as part of broader policy advice regarding the future role of the Industry Skills Councils.
- c. The report was provided to the ACCI Employment Education and Training Committee on 6 September 2006 in response to a request. The report was provided to Mr Steve Balzary on 11 September 2006 and Mr Tom Barton on 14 September 2006 so that they could provide independent perspectives on the report and recommendations.

- d. Opinions of the operations of the Industry Skills Councils during the evaluation were sought from:

Organisation consulted
ACT State Training Authority
Aged & Community Services Australia
Aged Care Association
Agri-Foods ISC
Attorney General's Department
Australasian Railway Association Inc
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Council for Private Education and Training
Australian Council of Trade Unions
Australian Industry Group
Australian Local Government Association
Business Council of Australia
Coles Myer Ltd
Community Services & Health ISC
Construction & Property Services ISC
Department of Defence
Department of Health and Ageing and OATSIH
ElectroComms & Energy Utilities ISC
Energy Network Australia
Government & Public Safety ISC
Group Training Australia
Innovation & Business ISC
Manufacturing Industry ISC
National Electrical and Communications Association
National Farmers Federation
National Quality Council
NSW State Training Authority
NT State Training Authority
QANTAS
QLD State Training Authority
Resources & Infrastructure ISC
SA State Training Authority
Services Skills Australia
TAFE Directors Australia
TAS State Training Authority
Transport & Logistics ISC
VIC State Training Authority
WA State Training Authority

Written comments were received from

Tyco Fire & Security
 Queensland Tourism Industry Council
 Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
 Department of Correctional Services (SA)

Minister Hardgrave sought independent perspectives on the evaluation report from:

Contract	State date	End date	Total value
Mr Balzary	21 September 2006	30 September 2006	\$10,000
Mr Barton	21 September 2006	30 September 2006	\$10,000

e. No

Attachment - Industry Skills Councils – Value of contracts

ISC	DEST Funding 1 July 2005 – 31 December 2006
Agri-food Industry Skills Council Ltd	\$2,316,500.00
Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council (CS&H ISC)	\$1,608,075.00
Construction and Property Services Industry Skills Council Ltd	\$2,160,450.00
ElectroComms and Energy Utilities Industry Skills Council (EE-Oz Training Standards Ltd)	\$1,531,000.00
Government and Community Safety Industry Skills Council (Public Service Skills Ltd)	\$1,995,000.00
Innovation and Business Industry Skills Council Ltd	\$3,262,210.00
Manufacturing Industry Skills Council Ltd	\$2,680,750.00
Resources and Infrastructure Industry Skills Council Ltd	\$2,397,563.00
Service Industries Skills Council Ltd	\$3,042,000.00
Transport and Logistics Industry Skills Council Ltd	\$1,790,173.00