

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Outcome 3

DEEWR Question No. EW781_10

Senator Back provided in writing.

Question

The following questions relate to the Question and Answer component of the Formal Skills Assessment

- a) How were the questions for the Q&A formulated?
- b) Did this occur in consultation with stakeholders / industry / training bodies?
- c) Who provided final approval?
- d) If advice was sought from industry, advise whether what AQF level these questions were pitched at and
- e) do they comprise of questions that require knowledge of Australian standards?
- f) How many are there?
- g) If so, how were foreign trade workers likely to be aware of Australian trade standards?
- h) What scores do you need in the Q&A to pass?

Answer

- a) Questions were formulated using the requirements of Training Packages, the principles of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and the advice of Advisory Committee members and Industry Skills Councils.
- b) DEEWR formed an advisory group comprising members of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Australian Industry Group, The Australian Council of Trade Unions, individual trade unions, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and sought advice from Industry Skills Councils.
- c) The advisory group provided approval.
- d) The assessments for each trade occupation are undertaken against a relevant AQF level qualification (normally an AQF Certificate III) according to the trade occupation in question. Each qualification was agreed by the advisory group.
- e) Yes.
- f) Current arrangements include 17 trade level occupations against AQF Certificate III level qualifications.
- g) In trade occupations where specific knowledge of Australian Standards is a pre-requisite to work in Australia, transition and gap training arrangements have been established in consultation with Industry Skills Councils.
- h) The relevant skill level to be issued a 457 visa is the equivalent Australian qualification.