

Senate Standing Committees on Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Date of hearing: 05 April 2023

Outcome: | Skills and Training

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations Question No. IQ23-000205

Senator Matt O'Sullivan on 05 April 2023, Proof Hansard page 15

5 April 2023 | Monthly Forum Meetings

Question

Mr Hardy: The department has undertaken comprehensive consultation on the bill and the associated explanatory memorandum. We did that with the National Centre for Vocational Education Research; with the Skills Senior Officials Network, which represents all states and territories; with VET regulators, including ASQA and NCVET—and I think we heard from them this morning—and, of course, from state and territory ministers responsible for skills. The bill was endorsed recently at the Skills and Workforce Ministerial Council, on 24 February, for introduction into the parliament. Members may be aware that skills ministers are responsible for the vocational education and training system; however, the Commonwealth minister is responsible for the enabling legislation, which is our part here. As part of this process, we've also got, what's part of the VDS program, an external user reference group. They meet monthly, going to your point about how often people meet. This bill was discussed at that meeting or at a particular meeting. It wasn't consulted directly in that; however, the overall and the overarching aspect of the bill was discussed through that forum.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: When did that group that meets monthly start meeting, or has that been ongoing thing for a long time?

Mr Hardy: It has been ongoing for a long time, at least 12 months. If we needed to get the exact date of when it started, I could take that on notice if that would help senators. But it has been going on for some time. It's not as if we've just begun.

Answer

The first VET Data Streamlining External User Reference Group (EURG) meeting was held on 14 December 2021.

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5 April 2023 | Comprehensive List of Stakeholders

Question

Senator O'SULLIVAN: You've mentioned some of the stakeholders you've engaged, but could you Provide us a comprehensive list on notice?

Mr Hardy: Yes. I'm happy to do that on notice.

Answer

The department has engaged with more than 200 stakeholders from the following organisations:

- 9 VET Peak bodies
- 2 Regulators
- The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)
- 8 State Training Authorities:
 1. ACT Government Education Directorate;
 2. Department of Education and Training Victoria;
 3. Department of Education, South Australia;
 4. Department of Employment, Small Business and Training, Queensland;
 5. Department of Industry Tourism and Trade, Northern Territory;
 6. Department of Training and Workforce Development, Western Australia;
 7. Skills Tasmania; and
 8. Training Services New South Wales.
- 66 Registered Training Organisations; and
- 28 Student Management Systems (SMS) providers.

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5 April 2023 | Exposure Draft Decision

Question

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Was there a decision made at some point? There are different ways that you could have approached this. You could have put out an exposure draft of the actual bill. Was there a decision made not to do that?

Mr Hardy: I will have to take that on notice. It wasn't an express decision made by the department, but, again, I would have to actually look into whether there was a desire to do that or if it was even thought necessary in something like this, which, remember, is just the enabling legislation. As ITECA said and, in fact, the others before us, through ASQA and NCVET, the bill itself doesn't actually impose regulatory or additional costs, so there wasn't thought to be a real need to go further than what we'd already gone with in relation to the consultation.

Answer

There was not an express decision made by the Department to not release an exposure draft.

The Bill was determined not to have a regulatory impact on registered training organisations (RTOs). This conclusion was reached in consultation with the then Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) on 2 June 2022. OBPR determined that the preparation of a Regulation Impact Statement was not required. On this basis, an exposure draft of the Bill to the VET sector was not released.