

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2013-14
2-3 June 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: National Skills Standards Council

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: BI-215

On 3 April 2014 it was decided by the inaugural meeting of the COAG Industry and Skills Council to dissolve the National Skills Standards Council (NSSC) and its ongoing functions were to be delegated to industry representatives and officials through the Industry and Skills Council Advisory Committee. It was decided that the Commonwealth would consult with states and territories on the composition and role of the Committee and that the new Committee would begin functioning in mid-2014.

- a. Have consultations between the Commonwealth and states and territories taken place? If yes, what are the outcomes of these consultations? Who was involved in the consultations? Has advice been provided to the Minister?
- b. In the Budget, \$8,662,000 was allocated for the NSSC from 2013-2018. Can the Department clarify what this funding will be used for?

ANSWER

- a. Discussions have been held between senior officials from the Commonwealth and states and territories in relation to the composition and role of the advisory committee. As a result, states and territories will be considering processes to nominate their representatives to the Committee. As at 30 June 2014 formal advice has not yet been provided to the Minister.
- b. The \$8,662,000 identified in the Budget for 2012-13 to 2017-18 for the NSSC is administrative funding broadly for support of the national training system, for functions previously performed by the NSSC that will now be performed by the Department. Specifically, the funding will be used to support the ongoing functions necessary for the functioning of the national training system. This includes work associated with standards for vocational education and training regulators, training providers and content, and oversight of the performance of the sector.