

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-15
23 October 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: Building Skills and Capacity

REFERENCE: Written Question - Senator Rhiannon

QUESTION No.: SI-87

On page 3 of the National Skills reform agreement a number of commitments are made about TAFE. Namely: enabling public providers to operate effectively in an environment of greater competition, recognising their important function in servicing the training needs of industry, regions and local communities, and their role that spans high level training and workforce development for industries and improved skill and job outcomes for disadvantaged learners and communities. What specific actions is the Minister undertaking to ensure that the states are fulfilling these obligations, considering that Victoria now has only 27% market share for TAFE?

ANSWER

COAG signed the National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform (Skills Reform NP) in April 2012. Clause 29 states that:

29. Jurisdictions will improve the efficiency and responsiveness of the VET system through:
- b. development and implementation of strategies which enable public providers to operate effectively in an environment of greater competition, recognising their important function in servicing the training needs of industry, regions and local communities, and their role that spans high level training and workforce development for industries and improved skill and job outcomes for disadvantaged learners and communities.

Under the Skills Reform NP, the Commonwealth and each state and territory government agreed on Implementation Plans which set out each jurisdiction's strategies and actions for delivering the reform initiatives, with performance to be measured by achievement of agreed project milestones.

From 2013 to 2017, each jurisdiction is required to provide the Commonwealth with an annual performance report, based on information from the previous calendar year, against the project milestones in their Implementation Plan. The Commonwealth makes payments to states and territories for VET structural reform subject to their achievement of the agreed milestones.