

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000904

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

Industry Skills Fund

Question

1. Can the Department provide a full list of recipients of funds under the Industry Skills Fund?
2. To what extent does the Department fund the delivery of training and skills related services through registered organisations of employers?
3. What is the total amount of Department funding that is provided to ACCI, NFF, AiGroup respectively, and under which programs is it provided?
4. What contractual requirements does the Department impose in relation to the funding arrangements to deal with potential or perceived conflicts of interest whereby preferential treatment could be seen to be given either to the RTO/GTO businesses operated by the employer organisations or their members at the expense of services to other RTO/GTO business or employers that are not their members?
5. What are the costs associated with reviewing the membership of advisory bodies and the number of those reviews that have resulted in either the removal or a reduction in union representation?
6. How many people are employed by the employer organisations using the funding provided?

Answer

1. See SQ15-00751 for a list of organisations with grant funding agreements in place.
2. Enterprise Registered Training Organisations are not eligible applicants under the Industry Skills Fund.
3. Funding related to Industry Skills Fund:

Industry Body	Programme	2014-15 Funding (GST Exc)	2015-16 Funding (GST Exc)	Total Funding (GST Exc)
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry	ETA*	\$1,625,000	\$555,000	\$2,180,000
Australian Industry Group	ETA* ISF	\$2,115,000	\$555,000 \$4,340,000	\$7,010,000
National Farmers Federation	ETA*	\$1,275,000	\$555,000	\$1,830,000
Total		\$5,015,000	\$6,005,000	\$11,020,000

*Contracts for Education and Training Advisers under the Industry Workforce Training Programme with ACCI, AiGroup and the NFF were extended in 2014-15 to include Industry Skills Fund advisory functions from January 2015 to 30 June 2015. Funding did not include training grants.

4. Clause B.3.10 of the Industry Skills Fund Advisory Services contract – *Skills Advisers may not refer businesses to the training and/or other services offered by You or a related entity.*
5. The department has not reviewed the membership of advisory bodies in respect to the Industry Skills Fund.
6. Ai Group has been funded for 31 Skills Advisers.