

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2012-13
13 February 2013

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: TAFE funding cuts

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 13 February 2013, page 72)

QUESTION No.: AI-35

Senator CAMERON: What is the federal government's or your department's involvement in this? We are pouring money into the TAFE system, and these Liberal and coalition governments are pulling money out at the other end. What are the implications for the funding of the TAFE system in Queensland?

Ms Furnell: I think what you are referring to is probably the implementation of the National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform, which involves quite a deal of money for Queensland. The state of play is that those negotiations and discussions are still continuing around what information is there and how to come to what the implications are for the details of the implementation plan. So that implementation plan has not yet been agreed, and hence no money has yet flowed to Queensland.

Senator CAMERON: What is the department's view about the implications of the funding cuts and redundancies in the TAFE system in Queensland for quality and capacity?

Ms Furnell: I have not undertaken a detailed assessment, because the details themselves are unclear, so I really cannot give much detail on that.

Senator CAMERON: But there have been announcements of cuts, haven't there?

Ms Furnell: They have cut some programs, and they have talked a lot about changes to TAFE. Exactly how those changes play out is not yet clear—whether they are rearranging—

Senator CAMERON: Are we engaging with them?

Ms Furnell: We are engaging with them.

Senator CAMERON: Where is that engagement up to?

Ms Furnell: We have asked some further questions of Queensland and are seeking information.

Senator CAMERON: Information about capacity to deliver under the overall position that we take? We are putting more money in. They are drawing money out. That is correct, isn't it?

Ms Furnell: Yes, they have made some cuts. I am just trying to find what details we have here.

Senator CAMERON: Do you have the figure on the cuts in Queensland?

Ms Furnell: I cannot lay my hands on a figure right now.

Senator CAMERON: Okay. Can someone have a look for that. If we cannot get it by the time I am finished, maybe you can take it on notice—

Ms Furnell: Yes.

ANSWER

Please refer to the response provided by Ms Furnell recorded in the Hansard transcript of 13 February 2013, on page 74.

Further information on Queensland’s reforms is also provided in our response to QoN AI-36.