

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: AUSTRALIAN WORKFORCE AND PRODUCTIVITY AGENCY

TOPIC: National Workforce Development Fund

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 13 February 2013, page 89)

QUESTION No.: AI-46

Senator NASH: This is my very final question: when registered training organisations receive funding from the National Workforce Development Fund—am I correct that they do?

Mr Shreeve: Yes. Well, they can—

Senator NASH: No, I am just making sure I have it right. They do get funding from that?

Mr Shreeve: In most cases. The funding goes to the ISC and then the ISC can fund the RTO on behalf of the enterprises. In some cases, like Skills DMC, all the money goes to the ISC and they give the money to the enterprise, which gives it to the RTO. We do not fund RTOs directly.

Senator NASH: Okay. So, when the money goes to the RTOs through that process, what is the accountability ensuring the quality levels of the training?

Mr Shreeve: Certainly they have to acquit the training. They have to meet national standards. The view that is expressed to us is that, as it is a co-contribution scheme, the industry partner—the enterprise—has a very definite incentive to have a quality RTO. We have not had many complaints about the quality of RTOs directed to us or, I believe, the department.

Senator NASH: Okay. If you could take on notice for me whether there have been complaints insofar as you can and provide those to the committee, that would be great.

Mr Shreeve: Yes, certainly. I am not aware of any.

ANSWER

The department has not received any complaints in relation to the quality of training provided by Registered Training Organisations funded through the National Workforce Development Fund.