

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
28 and 29 May 2012

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

TOPIC: COAG VET national partnership and national agreement on skills

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Rhiannon

QUESTION No.: BI-228

What is the Government doing to ensure post secondary education remains accessible and affordable to all VET students?

ANSWER

Under the National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform states and territories have agreed to create a more accessible and equitable training system by:

- a. introducing and strengthening a national entitlement to a government subsidised training place to a minimum of the first Certificate III qualification which:
 - i. is accessible through any registered training organisation (RTO), public or private, which meets state-based criteria for access to the national training entitlement;
 - ii. is available as a minimum to all working age Australians (from post-school to age pension age) without a Certificate III or higher qualification, subject to meeting minimum entry requirements and state based criteria; and
 - iii. includes foundation skills or lower qualifications contained within the Certificate III qualification.
- b. supporting expansion of the Commonwealth's Income Contingent Loan (ICL) scheme to improve the accessibility of higher level qualifications and work with the Commonwealth to enhance a quality framework including state and Commonwealth quality requirements for public and private RTOs to access ICLs.