

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio  
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13  
17 October 2012

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

**TOPIC:** Council of Federal Financial relations meeting

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 17 October 2012, page 71)

**QUESTION No.:** SI-32

**Senator RYAN:** Who makes the final decision about what these national minimum standards will be?

**Ms Borthwick:** The final decision will go to the Standing Committee on Federal Financial Relations through the COAG single national economy reform process.

**Senator RYAN:** Is that the Treasurer's committee?

**Ms Borthwick:** Yes.

**Senator RYAN:** It is due to come online in the first half of next year. Is that supposed to be 1 January?

**Ms Borthwick:** There has been no firm decision made about a start date at this point.

**Senator RYAN:** So would it not be fair to say it is due to come online in the first half of next year, or it is but no date in the first half has been decided?

**Ms Borthwick:** At the moment the aim is to introduce it in the first half of next year.

**Senator RYAN:** Do you know when the next meeting of the Council of Federal Financial Relations is?

**Ms Borthwick:** I do not know. I will just check with Mr Luckhurst.

**Mr Luckhurst:** I am not sure. It is obviously something that is handled through the Treasury portfolio, but we could take that on notice and get you some further information on that.

**ANSWER**

The Treasury has advised that the next meeting of the Standing Council on Federal Financial Relations is scheduled for 17 December 2012.