

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 2  
**Output Group:** 2.2 – New Apprenticeships

#### DEST Question No. E827\_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### Questions:

1. What is the Government's response to the calls from industry groups, particularly but not only in the construction industry, for employer subsidies and other forms of government funding to be available to fund targeted training, other than currently-recognised Certificate courses (ie partial courses or tailor-made study)?
2. Is it intended that the Institute will serve as a venue for the development, or the canvassing, of these proposals?
3. Is a review of policy and guidelines for employer subsidies under consideration, or has a review commenced? What is the process for this and who is responsible?
4. Are means of bypassing industry skills councils under consideration? What are the processes being considered? What will be the role of the Institute for Trade Skill Excellence in this process?

#### Answer:

##### *Possible role in development of new industry training packages*

1. New Apprenticeships employer incentives are only paid in respect to recognised training at Certificate II, III and IV levels, approved by States and Territories to be delivered as New Apprenticeships. There is no capacity to fund non New Apprenticeship courses under this programme.

Australian Government funding under the ANTA Agreement has provision for states and territories to support subject only/non course training, to meet the needs of individual students and their employers. Some 5.8% of the VET student population of 1.7 million only enrolled in subjects/modules/units of competency rather than a full qualification. (source: NCVET, Australian vocational education and training statistics - students and courses 2003, Table 4, page 5).

2. The Institute's role is to focus on promoting the quality, and the status and profile of trade training, especially those in skill shortage areas.
3. A review of the New Apprenticeships Incentives Programme was conducted in 2002. This review supported the current primary eligibility criteria for the Programme - that the individual is a New Apprentice under a State/Territory Training Contract – and it would not be appropriate nor is it intended to conduct a further review at this time.

4. No means to by-pass the Industry Skills Councils are under consideration. In the Discussion Paper *Skilling Australia: New Directions for Vocational Education and Training* the Government has undertaken to maintain the Industry Skills Councils.