

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2009-2010**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education

DEEWR Question No.EW0996_10

Senator Cormann asked on 11/02/2010, Hansard page 28.

Question

AUSTRALIAN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SPENCER GULF AND OUTBACK COLLEGE

Ms Paul—The school is still there. The school is operating. The school is operating under this new program run by the South Australian state department and it is still offering mining and energy sector related training with training services provided by registered training organisations, principally TAFE SA. So the school has not shut its doors, as such; it has transitioned, is my understand of it. Senator CORMANN—I am looking now at the Australian Technical College Spencer Gulf and Outback website, which is an sa.edu.au ending of website. So it looks official, by the looks of it, and it has got in big capital letters, 'College is now closed.' So that would be wrong, then, would it? Ms Paul—The students are clearly doing something and I presume they are doing it from the same premises. So unless the premises have changed—perhaps I need to take that on notice. Senator CORMANN—You might want to track that down. It is www.atc-sgo.sa.edu.au. It is has got 'Australian Government, Australian Technical College Spencer Gulf and Outback College is now closed.' But what you are saying, that is not right? CHAIR—You cannot believe everything you see online. Senator CORMANN—It looks official. It looks like it is from government. It has a government logo on it. Ms McKinnon—I am happy to take that on notice. Senator CORMANN—Yes, please. That is good

Answer

The students of the Australian Technical College - Spencer Gulf and Outback (ATC SGO) are continuing their education through the education and training system of South Australia and a new school based program, the Resources and Energy Program (REP).

The new program does not operate from the same premises as the former ATC, as most of its facilities were leased. Only the facilities at Port Pirie were owned, and these were transferred to the SA Government to contribute to the running of the new REP program (QoN:EW0999_10 refers).

The website of the Australian Technical College Spencer Gulf and Outback Incorporated noted that the 'college is now closed' when the ATC business entity ceased to operate, rather than showing a direction to the new entity, and the new opportunities available to students, in the manner of other former ATC websites.