

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

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

**Outcome 3 - Higher Education**

**DEEWRQuestion No.EW1075\_10**

**Senator Cormann asked on 11/02/2010, Hansard page 110.**

**Question**

***INDUSTRY SKILLS COUNCILS – FUNDING AND RESPONSIBILITIES***

Senator CORMANN—I understand. I remember when it was all changed, but the role of the Industry Skills Councils, as I understand it, changed quite a bit over the last two years. Ms Paul—The essence of the role remains the same, which is that they are the very, very important body in the overall vocational education and training system that produces the training packages, which, in our terms, is the curriculum, if you like, for vocational education and training. That role is the centre of their role, and that stays the same. Senator CORMANN—So their funding and their responsibilities have not changed over the last two years at all. Ms Paul—We would have to take that on notice.

**Answer**

The role of Industry Skills Councils (ISCs) was strengthened in line with the Australian Government's *Skilling Australia for the Future* policy. New funding agreements between the Commonwealth of Australia and ISCs, which reflect their strengthened role and broader responsibilities, were entered into during April 2008 and conclude in June 2011. These funding agreements have provided funding to ISCs to support their strengthened role.