

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

**SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
2008-09 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING**

Outcome 4

DEEWR Question No. EW 718_09

Senator Nettle asked on Thursday 5 June 2008, Hansard page 38

Question

- (a) provide the Terms of Reference for the Ministerial Action Group; and
- (b) Provide the date of the first meeting of the Ministerial Action Group on sustainable skills

Answer

The Action Group to which you refer is the National VET Sector Sustainability Action Group, comprised of senior Commonwealth, State and Territory officials from the vocational, education and training sector. It does not have Ministerial-level participation.

The Action Group will report to Ministers through the Ministerial Council for Vocational and Technical Education (MCVTE).

The Queensland Department of Training, Education and the Arts (DTEA) is chairing the Action Group and will also provide secretariat support.

The National VET Sector Sustainability Action Group is planning to meet on 31 July 2008. The terms of reference for the Action Group are provided.

**National VET Sector Sustainability Action Group
Draft Terms of Reference**

Action Group Membership:

- One nominee from the Australian Government
- One nominee from each of the State and Territory Governments

Convener and Chair:

- Queensland

Tasks:

Prepare for consideration by MCVTE by May 2009, a Draft National Policy and Action Plan for Sustainability in the Vocational Education and Training Sector, having regard to the following:

- a. Identification of the scope of the term sustainability as it refers to VET, given that a shared understanding of the term does not currently exist and that definitions range from a narrow environmental focus to those encompassing economic, political and social justice
- b. Conducting an environmental scan of specific sustainability actions in place or in development, including the extent to which sustainability has been embedded in national training packages
- c. Potential for integration with, and complementarity to, existing and developing sustainability and educational policies, strategies and practices
- d. Consideration of the diversity of the private provider sector, including the preponderance of small-to-medium size enterprises
- e. Applicability of successful international models for sustainability education in VET
- f. Recognition and accommodation of the diverse circumstances of States and Territories, such as varying industry structures and demographics
- g. Encouragement of innovation and regional diversity reflective of local needs,
- h. Identification of potential constraints and risks and remedial strategies to manage these, and
- i. Provide advice to MCVTE on a stakeholder consultation strategy.