

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

**Cross Portfolio**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0417\_12**

**Senator Marshall asked on 1/06/2011, Hansard page 56.**

**Question**

**Administration Of VET Regulator**

CHAIR: The VET regulator, once it is established, did you say that it is going to be self-funding? Ms Paul: It has got a significant Commonwealth funding base. Mr Griew: Yes, it is not entirely— CHAIR: So it is going to appear here as an agency? Mr Griew: Yes. Ms Paul: Yes, absolutely. And there is a significant funding line for it. Senator Chris Evans: We are trying not to make that public, Senator. We are trying to get someone good to fill the job! CHAIR: Yes. I was just wondering, because it would appear when we set up—and I know this is not this portfolio—but the national health regulator, has disappeared completely from any scrutiny because it is self-funded and does not appear at the estimates. And it charges twice as much and takes twice as long as it used to under the state system and there is no ability to actually question their efficiency. Senator Chris Evans: But as you know, Senator, this has been established by an act of this parliament. CHAIR: I think that body was as well. But, anyway, it is not this portfolio, but I just wanted to check that this body will appear and be subject to scrutiny. Ms Paul: In terms of estimates there is a funding line to it, so there is an appropriation. CHAIR: Even if it had become through fees and other things self-funding and did not require a funding line from the Commonwealth would it still appear as a Commonwealth agency here? Ms Paul: That is a good question. I would have thought it would, but I would probably have to take advice. Mr Griew: It is still subject to legislative scrutiny. It is established by an act of the Australian parliament. Senator Chris Evans: We will take on notice the formal question, Senator, but it is certainly our understanding that it would do.

**Answer**

The National Vocational Education and Training Regulator was established with effect from 1 July 2011 as a Statutory Agency under the *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011* (NVR Act). The agency was reported in the Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Portfolio 2011-12 Portfolio Budget Statements.

As part of the General Government Sector, the agency will be required to prepare and publish Annual Reports and Portfolio Budget Statements. The annual reporting requirements are legislated at Part 10, Section 215 of the NVR Act. Consistent with other DEEWR portfolio agencies the regulator will be available for scrutiny as part of the Estimates Committee process, irrespective of its funding source.