

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 BUDGET ESTIMATES SUPPLEMENTARY HEARING

**Outcome:** 2  
**Output Group:** 2.1

#### **DEST Question No. E376\_04**

Senator Marshall asked on 5 November 2003

#### **Question:**

Can ANTA confirm that they are opposed to equal union-employer representation on the new Industry Skills Councils and isn't this another blow to bipartisan industry support for a national training system?

#### **Answer:**

ANTA has provided the following response:

ANTA has explicitly required that the Boards of the new Industry Skills Councils be bipartite, involving employers and employees. There is no requirement in relation to particular numbers or proportions of Board members that can be drawn from any category of representation. The parties to each industry forming an Industry Skills Council develop their own proposals for how Boards will be structured.

The new Industry Skills Councils are expected to operate as a business and be financially competent and viable organisations with management capabilities that ANTA and industry can deal with, with confidence. ANTA has therefore placed a strong emphasis on the new Councils having corporate governance arrangements that are good practice. To this end there is a strong emphasis on members of Boards collectively holding the necessary skills to govern the organisation. To reinforce good governance ANTA has sought to de-emphasise both the traditional representation approach to Board membership and structured voting blocks in favour of the skills and experience Directors bring to the Board and an emphasis on Directors acting in the interests of the company – as is required by corporate law.

The ANTA Board has taken the issue of good corporate governance of the new Industry Skills Councils very seriously, and is using Henry Bosch to provide an independent expert assessment of the proposed constitution and structure of each Council as it comes forward for declaration.