

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

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

**Outcome 3 - Tertiary, Skills, International and Indigenous Strategy**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0676\_12

**Senator Rhiannon provided in writing.**

**Question**

***VET Tender process***

Can you detail why TAFE is penalised under the VET competitive tender process?

**Answer**

The Commonwealth does not penalise TAFE in conducting VET tender processes.

The Commonwealth directly funds a number of VET programs, for example, Language, Literacy and Numeracy Program, and there is no discrimination against TAFE in the tendering for these programs. The Tender process is conducted by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines.

The Australian Government does not control how the State and Territory Governments tender for services. The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has, however, noted its support for the TAFE system as the key public provider in a competitive market recognising that it not only provides quality training but also ensures against market failure in the VET sector and meets community service obligations.