



**THE HON ANDREW GILES MP
MINISTER FOR SKILLS AND TRAINING**

MEDIA RELEASE

OVER 150 GHOST COLLEGES AXED

The Albanese Labor Government is cracking down on dormant vocational education and training (VET) providers, announcing this week that over 150 'ghost colleges' have been shut down.

The Braithwaite Review 2018 first uncovered serious integrity issues in Australia's VET sector which **were rampant under the former Liberal and National Government.**

The *Nixon Review 2023* and *Interim Report into International Education 2023* confirmed that the former Liberal and National Government turned a blind eye, finding that a lack of integrity in the system had grown even further under their watch.

The Albanese Government is continuing to clean up the decade-long mess, shutting down 'dormant' registered training providers (RTOs) who have failed to show proof of delivering training for 12 months or more.

The Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) is keeping an eye on an additional 140 RTOs who have received a warning notice. They must resume quality training **by the end of 2024** or face deregistration. **Those who don't resume satisfactory training will be found out and action will be taken to shut them down.**

Improving integrity in the VET system means students are better placed to study at quality providers while employers can trust qualifications. This saves businesses time and money by improving the hiring process – and ensures students aren't exploited.

These strong measures came into effect under the *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Amendment* passed by the Parliament earlier this year; measures first recommended by the *Braithwaite Review* but ignored by the former Liberal and National Government.

This builds on the Albanese Government's broader effort to restore integrity and quality to the VET sector, backing in **more than \$37 million investment** in VET integrity initiatives to support the sustainability, quality and integrity of our international education and training sector.

Quotes attributable to the Minister for Skills and Training, the Hon Andrew Giles MP:

"The Albanese Government is **calling time on the rorts and loopholes** that have plagued the VET sector for far too long under the former Liberal and National Government.

"We've **weeded out and shut down over 150 dormant operators**, and **140 more have been given a yellow card.**

"Under our Government, there is no place for anyone who seeks to undermine the sector and **exploit students.**"

WEDNESDAY, 21 AUGUST 2024

Media contact: s 22(1)

Media contact: **s 22(1)**



**THE HON ANDREW GILES MP
MINISTER FOR SKILLS AND TRAINING**

MEDIA RELEASE

150 GHOST COLLEGES AXED

The Albanese Labor Government is cracking down on dormant vocational education and training (VET) providers, announcing this week that around 150 'ghost colleges' have been shut down.

First uncovered by the *Braithwaite Review 2018*, exploitation of Australia's VET sector by unscrupulous and non-genuine providers ran rampant the former Liberal and National Government.

The *Nixon Review 2023* and *Interim Report into International Education 2023* only confirmed that the former Liberal and National Government turned a blind eye, finding that a lack of integrity in the system had grown even further under their watch.

The Albanese Government is continuing to clean up the decade-long mess, shutting down 'dormant' registered training providers (RTOs) who have failed to show proof of delivering training for 12 months or more.

The Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) is keeping an eye on an additional 140 RTOs who have received a warning notice. They must resume quality training by the end of 2024 or face deregistration. Those who don't resume satisfactory training will be found out and action will be taken to shut them down.

Improving integrity in the VET system means students are better placed to study at quality providers while employers can trust qualifications. This saves businesses time and money by improving the hiring process – and ensures students aren't exploited by unscrupulous actors.

These strong measures came into effect under the *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Amendment* passed by the Parliament earlier this year; measures first recommended by the *Braithwaite Review* but ignored by the former Liberal and National Government.

This builds on the Albanese Government's broader effort to restore integrity and quality to the VET sector, backing in more than \$37 million investment in VET integrity initiatives to support the sustainability, quality and integrity of our international education and training sector.

Quotes attributable to the Minister for Skills and Training, the Hon Andrew Giles MP:

"The Albanese Government is calling time on the rorts and loopholes that have plagued the VET sector for far too long under the former Liberal and National Government.

"We've weeded out and shut down around 150 dormant operators, and 140 more have been given a yellow card.

"Under our Government, there is no place for anyone who seeks to undermine the sector and exploit students."

WEDNESDAY, 21 AUGUST 2024

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

This builds on the Albanese Government's broader effort to restore integrity and quality to the VET sector, backing in more than \$37 million investment in VET integrity initiatives to support the sustainability, quality and integrity of our international education and training sector.

Quotes attributable to the Minister for Skills and Training, the Hon Andrew Giles MP:

"The Albanese Government is calling time on the rorts and loopholes that have plagued the VET sector for far too long under the former Liberal and National Government.

"We've weeded out and shut down over 150 dormant operators, and 140 more have been given a yellow card.

"Under our Government, there is no place for anyone who seeks to undermine the sector and exploit students."

WEDNESDAY, 21 AUGUST 2024

MEDIA CONTACT

s 22(1)



The Hon. Andrew Giles MP
Minister for Skills and Training

DRAFT MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 21 August 2024

Over 140 dormant VET providers no longer in the sector

The Australian Government is cracking down on dormant vocational education and training (VET) providers not actively providing training or assessment.

More than 140 registered training providers (RTOs) have had their registration lapse after not delivering training for 12 months or more.

The move follows new powers that came into force under the *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Amendment (Strengthening Quality and Integrity in VET No. 1) Act 2024* (the Amendment Act), passed by Parliament earlier this year.

The Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) is closely monitoring another 140 RTOs that have been granted an extension up to 31 December 2024 to resume quality training or face their registration lapsing.

From 1 July 2024, an RTO that has not delivered training or assessment for 12 consecutive months must apply to ASQA for an extension of the measurement period¹ to operate.

ASQA may grant an extension up to 12 months where the RTO is genuinely committed to providing training and assessment. No further extensions are available after that.

The Act seeks to better target unscrupulous and non-genuine providers, and increases penalties for various offences five-fold.

The Act builds on the Australian Government's broader campaign to boost integrity and quality in the VET sector.

The government has also strengthened the Fit and Proper Person Requirements for those owning and managing RTOs, and provided \$37.8 million for VET integrity initiatives.

Quotes attributable to the Minister for Skills and Training, the Hon Andrew Giles MP:

"Most providers do the right thing – and they, along with students, industry and the wider community, will benefit from the removal of dodgy providers who undermine the integrity and trust in VET."

"We have weeded out more than 140 dormant providers, which is part of ensuring the continued trust and effective regulation of our world-class VET sector."

"Our legislation has given ASQA more powers to scrutinise providers and ensure they are doing the right thing, so no providers compromise the integrity of the VET sector."

[ENDS]

¹ certain decisions by ASQA are subject to review rights.

Media contact: s 22(1)

 Outlook

RE: Media Release - Lapsed RTOs [SEC=OFFICIAL]

From s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Date Thu 15/08/2024 17:02

To s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cc s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DEWR - Media <media@dewr.gov.au>

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

The Minister's Office has let us know today that they would like to drop this media release next Wednesday during Skills Week. He's also going to do some media interviews before the release drops.

I've updated the media release you sent through so it's on the Giles template. The only other bits I've done is cut the paragraph that was political (we have to keep it factual) and another line that was a bit convoluted.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

If you could get this cleared tomorrow that would be great, basically no changes so hopefully should be fairly easy. We need to get this to the MO Monday morning, so even better if it goes smoothly and we can shoot it off before the weekend.

[📎 240815 DRAFT GILES MR - DORMANT RTOS.docx](#)

Let me know if you have any questions, happy to chat.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director

Media | Communications & Media Branch
 People, Communication, Parliamentary & Media Branch
 Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
 Phone s 22(1)(a)(ii)
dewr.gov.au

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and Elders past, present and emerging.

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 9:00 AM

To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Subject: Media Release - Lapsed RTOs [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 22(1)

Thanks for the chat and the extra context regarding this MR.

Please see the updated draft attached.

We'd be happy to run it through our executive again once you've made your edits.

Thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

VE | Regulation Policy | Quality and Regulation Branch
 Industry Engagement and Quality
 Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
 Phone s 22(1)(a)(ii)
dewr.gov.au

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and Elders past, present and emerging.