

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

ASQA response to QUESTION ON NOTICE

Enquiry into vocational education and training in South Australia

Public hearing 2 February 2018

Senator CAMERON: A point of order: if this witness could just listen for a second and stop talking. You've indicated that these are individuals, these are experts who have a very strong point of view in relation to the problems in the industry that you have got quality oversight from. You said you agree with some of the points they've raised. Can you now take me to the points you agree with?

Mr Paterson: I said that I didn't necessarily agree with everything they've said or disagree with everything they've said. I was asked at the outset of the hearing to identify the basis upon which I appear before the committee. I appear before the committee as the chief commissioner and chief executive of the Australian Skills Quality Authority. We have a legislative remit to govern quality through the activities of registered training organisations.

Senator CAMERON: That's not what I'm asking you. I'm asking you—

Mr Paterson: No, you're asking—

Senator CAMERON: If you could just come to the question I asked you: what areas do you agree with?

CHAIR: What we're going to have to do, because of the time situation—I hear what you say, Mr Paterson, but I'd like you to take the question on notice and answer the question as best you can, given the constraints you've outlined with your remit. I understand the position you are in—in charge of the statutory authority, you can't go outside of those things. But I'd like you to take that question on notice and answer the question as best as you can.

Answer

ASQA has reviewed the written submissions and determined – in this particular instance – that they largely go to broader commentary concerning the architecture of the Australian Vocational Education and Training system and, as such, are outside ASQA's remit as the National VET Regulator. On that basis, the Authority does not consider it appropriate to provide comment on those submissions.