

Unfortunately I was too late in making a submission to the inquiry into Industry Skills Council, but I believe that I have a concern that has not been adequately addressed in any existing submissions. In particular, I believe this issue relates to items a) and h).

As with any quality product, Training Packages should and do undergo a quality review prior to endorsement. However, I believe questions need to be asked about the seriousness of this quality review given that the 'final product' available from NTIS is often quite flawed. There are two significant cases that highlight inadequacy in the role of the National Quality Council in adequately examining the quality of Training Packages.

Firstly, there is at least one Training Package on the NTIS that has a header of 'Dummy Training Package'. Not only is this poor development by the appropriate ISC to submit such a document, but it also raises questions about the NQC involvement in ensuring a quality product is released to market.

Secondly, there are a number of training packages (most notably the Public Safety Training Package) which have content that was submitted and endorsed with new material that contains a review date in the past! For example, Version 8 of Public Safety contains a number of new qualifications that were endorsed for the first time in 2011, yet these now contain a review date of 2006! How can a product have a review date that is prior to its initial establishment?

For this particular package, there is also an appropriateness of expenditure issue, as the responsible ISC has spent considerable funds over the past 5 years 'reviewing' this training package, but the outcomes have been minimal review work but considerable additions (some of which often just copy content available in other packages).

I hope that although the submission date has closed, this information will be considered as part of the inquiry as it will assist in ensuring that the VET sector improves the overall quality of its products which drive skills development within Australia.