



EE-Oz Training Standard – Submission to the Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

RE: National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Bill 2010 [2011], National Vocational Education and Training Regulator (Transitional Provisions) Bill 2010 [2011] and National Vocational Education and Training Regulator (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2011

EE-Oz Training Standards

The ElectroComms and Energy Utilities Industries Skills Council, trading as EE-Oz Training Standards, represent the following sectors, including those in both training and technical roles;

- General electrical installation, communications and Air-conditioning and refrigeration to commercial, industrial and domestic customers
- Electricity distribution, transmission and rail
- Electricity generation
- Gas Transmission

EE-Oz's brief is to develop, in consultation with industry stakeholders (regulators, industry associates, employee and employer representative bodies, training providers, standards bodies and government), training standards for the industries under its coverage. It also represents the interests of these organisations on training related matters in the public forum. The industries under EE-Oz's coverage, the energy sector industries, provide essential services which underpin the productivity of the wider economy.

The essential nature of these services and the inherently dangerous nature of work carried out in these sectors, require robust regulatory and industrial arrangements to ensure individual, public and enterprise safety and continuity of supply.

Submission

EE-Oz is broadly supportive of the move to a National VET Regulator (NVR) and recognises this as an important step in ensuring confidence in the VET sector and removing inconsistencies in the application of competency standards in Training Packages.

To realise the full potential benefits of this shift and ensure that the VET sector remains responsive to the requirements of industry, industry must be given a substantive role in the application of standards for RTOs and the moderation of assessment. This will ensure independent scrutiny and consistency across training providers, industries and jurisdictions, in relation to the development of vocational skills. This is particularly relevant in the industry sectors under EE-Oz's coverage which must address stringent legislative requirements for safety and technical compliance.

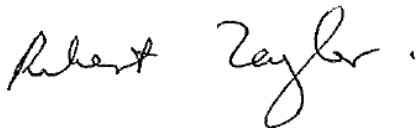
Whilst the Act defines VET courses to include Training Package qualifications and units, no specific reference is made to the role of ISCs in developing and maintaining these and the essential requirement that RTOs comply with the industry and regulatory requirements embedded in these. The NVR's role in accrediting VET accredited courses should encompass a requirement for course developers to consult with the appropriate ISC, allowing industry input into qualifications and confirming their alignment with its needs.

Once these standards are established, the legislated power outlined in the bill to apply punitive measures against non-complying entities is imperative and, if anything, should be strengthened to promote compliance.

The NVR should assume responsibility for the nature and transparency of RTO reporting. Industry believes that improving access to information is an efficient and effective method of improving market operation and promotion competition. Information should provide clients of the training sector with accurate and timely evidence based data on the performance of individual RTOs. This will have associated benefits for consumers promoting supply side flexibility and assist quality service providers who are able to demonstrate value to consumers.

We note that standards for NVR registered training organisations may be created as regulations under this act, however, the relationship of these standards to the existing AQTF and interoperability of the same is unclear.

Mr Robert Taylor,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

CEO, EE-Oz Training Standards

March 2011