Vocational education and training in South Australia Submission 12

Dear EEC Secretary,

ASQA has failed in SA to also provide quality regulatory oversight for defunct aviation pilot training as well, in fact ASQA has failed to consult with all 20 affected student pilots in an appropriate manner...

ASQA failed to audit this RTO correctly as advised by students..ASQA needed the official Course Syllabus but failed to obtain all relevant evidence

ASQA has had no interest to date in the publishing of our falsified pilot training academic records by BHFS to SA DSD (Department of State Development) let alone a failure by the RTO to provide accurate academic records to students enrolled on the course within the prescribed time in accordance with the RTO's Progression Policy, thus leaving students in absolute disarray. This has been all completely overlooked by ASQA (and DET) to date

We are talking here purely about the accredited VET funded portions of the Course 15725SA that did not get delivered to 20 student pilots.

For 2 years we have argued with ASQA DET and even DSD (SA) that rorting of VET and Skills For All Funding is rife in SA, this time in the aviation sector. We have raised it with Senator Simon Birmingham (even in the Senate) and he says that no HES Act breaches could be identified. The RTO then had 16 breaches identified by ASQA under the NVR Act and the ESOS Act and the VET Guidelines. It is high time Senator Birmingham's legal opinion is legally re- examined. There are obvious alleged abuses of VET funding by this RTO in SA yet the Federal Minister sees no such illegalities? The Federal Minister needed to provide prior approval for all VET Funded Pilot Training Course Cost increases, but this did not happen, etc.

TAFE SA had recent issues also with aviation engineers yet CASA conveniently sees no reason for concern, not even when CASA approved Chief Flying Instructors allegedly falsify flight training records that now contradict the RTO's evidence in court.

We still have outstanding issues with the delivery and quality of air pilots training at this Bruce Hartwig Flying School at Parafield in SA (regarding the Advanced Diploma of Aviation Course 15725SA that was both VET and SFA Funded), resulting in its RTO Registration being cancelled temporarily by ASQA on 9-6-2017.

ASQA has to date, however, failed the student pilots and refused to cooperate with transformational change...we now have , ASQA lawyer, within the AAT defending ASQA and the DET and possibly also the RTO, BHFS, in an attempt to protect their own integrity, ASQA also disallowing the student pilots to act as a Joined Party in these legal matters just to ensure that the facts are delivered to ASQA and the AAT by the students in an appropriately vetted manner that would withstand the scrutiny of the AAT. The student Applicants have the evidence including a 100% Failure Rate for their Pilot Course that was never delivered in full to them.....the students were told by the new owners of BHFS that the students "did not want to graduate, they only wanted their CASA pilot licences and ratings"....this is an admission in itself by the New Management because the student pilots also wanted to graduate with an ADA, but ASQA prefers to overlook this matter, as does the

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SA DSD that provided the SFA Grant Funding for this ADA Course...a total wasted investment of State and Federal Fundings that no one is yet being held accountable for. In any other State, this would be deemed fraud.

This will culminate in a Public Hearing in ADL early 2017 at the AAT.

Also see Senate Questions 110-112 20-10-2016 where a clear failure has emerged with Senator Simon Birmingham failing to address the 4 Questions On Notice with factual answers, instead we got FAKE ANSWERS that have only further exacerbated and prolonged this ongoing VET Scandal financially legally and politically Senator Simon Birmingham should be brought before the EEC again to have his alleged spurious answers examined in detail in light of these scandalous VET developments as alerted to by the recent ANAO Report on the DET's VET Program as poorly designed, implemented and administered...sad thing is that it is still continuing December 2017 at Parafield Airport, SA.

How?

DET has awarded BHFS VET Accreditation right up until June 30 2017 DESPITE a 100% failure rate in the ADA Course 15725SA Course that was to have 20 student pilots graduating by 23-6-2015. My daughter was falsely labelled as failing, she went on to two other flight training centres, was immediately successful, and is now flying for a commercial airline, something that her 19 colleagues had dreamed of but could no longer afford. We have the professional witnesses and the legal evidence and we plan to proceed to recover these VET Loans from BHFS (via a full re-credit to the DET/ATO) and also establish why the SA DSD granted SFA funding to BHFS based on these same falsified academic pilot training records.

ASQA was the RTO Regulator that we were relying on to establish the veracity of these falsified academic records, but ASQA has since failed in its regulatory role.

As the ASQA CEO, Mark Paterson, said, these academic results can't all be correct on a student by student basis. The irony is the student pilots had to obtain their academic records using FOI well after the Course End Date because the RTO refused to acknowledge delivery of the 15725SA Course to THESE 20 VET Funded student pilots despite being contracted by the DET and ATO to deliver the ADA Course.

Meanwhile the students are unable to train for 3 years, there is no financial compensation in sight as yet, and now TAFE SA has fallen in the public's eyes as well because of a gross failure of not only State and Federal Education and Skills Training Ministers, but Regulators such as ASQA and CASA which have failed to accept first hand evidence and advice given to them 2 years prior from affected students

Seems that students' VET and SFA concerns will have to be addressed in 3 pending Public Hearings at AAT so any further input from Senate findings would be appreciated, and vice versa should the EEC welcome any legal decisions handed down to the 3 student Applicants by the AAT.

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To conclude, one thing I do dislike is National Regulators allegedly doing confidential deals behind closed doors without full transparency with student Applicants before the AAT, Applicant students that have provided, in this case, all the legal evidence to ASQA and DET and DSD in order for ASQA and DET and DSD to take the appropriate action without all the added expense of a 2-year Appeal Process within the AAT.

ASQA has also conveniently ignored the RTO's abuse of their own 90-Day Student Complaint Process. that has now been stretched out to exceed 1000 days of complaining.

There is enough evidence already before the lawyers for DET and ASQA for their clients/organizations to take independent legal action against BHFS in their own right, and allow the students to recommence their aviation training that has now been delayed for over 1000 days.

Full responsibility now rests with the students to prosecute their case as you cannot rely on either State or Federal Ministers and/or VET Regulators to do their jobs correctly and promptly, leaving thousands of students seriously inconvenienced.

It would seem that a class action suit would be highly successful with Duncan Basheer Hannon and I would be in full support of this.

Just imagine for a moment, aviation engineers at TAFE SA and now pilots at BHFS that are all VET funded, but with their qualifications under a cloud.....hence the aviation safety issue that CASA is still denying wholeheartedly.

Sincerely

Dr. Steve Brown