

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 8

Question No: 516

Topic: Certificate III Courses in aged care

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Polley asked:

How is the Minister or his Assistant Minister addressing quality issues and variances in the Certificate III courses in aged care which vary by training provider and state and territory?

Answer:

The Department of Industry has overall policy responsibility for Vocational Education and Training (VET) quality and standards. The Department of Social Services liaises with the Department of Industry on issues related to the quality and consistency of VET training for the aged care sector.

Regulation of Registered Training Organisations is provided by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) as Australia's first national VET regulator. All states and territories have referred VET regulation powers to ASQA, apart from Victoria and Western Australia which have equivalent regulatory organisations. If a training organisation operates (or intends to operate) in a participating jurisdiction, or otherwise qualifies under the national scheme, ASQA is the body responsible for that organisation's registration.

Assistant Minister Fifield has approved funding through the Aged Care Workforce Fund managed by the Department Social Services for the Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council to do an extensive review of the aged care qualifications and competencies in Community Services training packages.