

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2014-15
2-3 June 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: Government Response to ASQA Reports

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: BI-201

ASQA recently completed three reports into Marketing and advertising practices of Australia's registered training organisations; Training for aged and community care in Australia and Training for the White Card for Australia's construction industry.

1. When will the Government be responding to these reports?
2. What is the reason for the delay in responding to these reports?
3. Does the Department consider that it now needs to respond to these reports and address recommendations as a matter of urgency – both for the protection of students, particularly vulnerable students, and also to retain confidence in the sector?

ANSWER

1. ASQA strategic reviews are conducted under sub-section 35{2} of the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator ACT 2011. The Minister is consulted on the strategic review topics determined by the ASQA Commissioners, but the strategic reviews are commissioned by ASQA, not the Government.

The Minister has supported ASQA in implementing the recommendations of its strategic reviews by writing to affected stakeholders in December 2013, outlining the importance of addressing the recommendations, and encouraging them to collaborate with ASQA in addressing them.

ASQA has advised it is progressively implementing the reviews' recommendations and is working closely with stakeholders. The reviews and their recommendations have also contributed to informing the VET reform process.

2. Not applicable.
3. Refer to the response to question 1.