

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2014-15
23 October 2013

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA)

TOPIC: Misuse of the VET HELP system

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 23 October 2014, page 63)

QUESTION No.: SI-31

Senator KIM CARR: Yes. So, when did you get your first complaint?

Mr Robinson: They have been coming in since the beginning of 2013.

Senator KIM CARR: Yes, so the first one was the beginning of 2013?

Senator Ronaldson: February, 2013.

Mr Robinson: Yes, because the scheme rolled out in that year.

Senator KIM CARR: Are you able to give me a pattern of what month the 82 arrived?

Mr Robinson: I have not got the timing of those ones but I could get that information for you on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: Yes. If we go through your compliance activity, say in the last 12 months, can you give me a summary of what action you have taken?

Mr Robinson: Yes. In the year 2013-14, we had around 8,000 applications to us that were completed. Many of those were approved, but we rejected four per cent of the applications for renewal of registration from existing RTOs. We rejected 12 per cent of the applications for a new RTO to be established. We also took further action, 297 regulatory decisions to cancel registration, suspend registration or give another written notice requiring RTOs to comply with certain matters.

Senator KIM CARR: Can I get a list of those particular institutions covered by those numbers?

Mr Robinson: Yes, we can supply that on notice

Senator KIM CARR: Could you take on notice please if there are any Certificate 4 students that have been affected by any of these actions, because that would cover the Commonwealth programs off?

Mr Robinson: Yes.

Senator KIM CARR: Do you automatically notify the education department in regard to the loans program?

Mr Robinson: I believe we do, but I would have to confirm that if I could, on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: If you would do that on notice. In terms of Aspire, who do they channel students to?

ANSWER

Time periods in which ASQA received VET Fee Help complaints	
Jan - Mar 2013	5.1%
Apr - Jun 2013	3.8%
Jul - Sep 2013	1.3%
Oct - Dec 2013	6.4%
Jan - Mar 2014	15.4%
Apr - Jun 2014	30.8%
Jul - Sep 2014	37.2%

Regulatory Decision	13/14
Decisions to Cancel Registration	25
Decisions to Suspend (all/part) Registration	49
Written Notices of Intention to Cancel /Suspend	188
Other Administrative Sanctions	35
Total	297

Application Rejection Decision	13/14
Decisions to reject Initial Application	44
Decisions to reject Renewal Application	33
Decisions to reject Change of Scope Application	103
Decisions to reject Notification of Registration Not Continuing Application	0
Total	180

This means that for the 2013/14 financial year 295 decisions were made: to cancel/suspend (74) registration; give written notice of intention to cancel/suspend registration (188); or refuse the re-registration of an RTO (33). These 295 decisions have affected a total of 206 individual NVR RTOs (given an NVR RTO can have more than one decision made against it).

The details of the providers affected by these decisions were published in ASQA 2013/14 Annual Report which can be found at:

- http://www.asqa.gov.au/verve/_resources/ASQA_Annual_Report_2013-14.pdf

ASAQ does not publish the details of providers subject to decisions that were:

- subsequently varied, set aside or resolved by consent (e.g. via Administrative Appeals Tribunal [AAT], or ASQA process)
- subject to an application for reconsideration or review which had not been finalised at the time of reporting
- still eligible for review process at the time of reporting

As such the number of providers listed below will not align with the number of decisions made. Further, a single provider can have multiple decisions made against it.

The number of affected providers offering training at the Certificate IV (as well as the Diploma, Advanced Diploma, Graduate Certificate & Graduate Diploma) is provided in the table below,

Qualification Level	No. of RTOs
Certificate IV	33
Diploma	29
Advanced Diploma	8
Graduate Certificate	2
Graduate Diploma	2

ASQA notifies the Department of Education when regulatory decisions are made so that that Department can take any action that it deems necessary. In addition ASQA regularly liaises with the Department of Education on a number of issues including VET FEE Help.