

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Agency: ASQA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000053

Senator Carr, Kim asked on 10 February 2016, Proof Hansard page 91

ASQA: training colleges in Queensland

Question

Senator KIM CARR: How many training colleges in Queensland were able to conduct the training in two days online when a New South Wales training college required up to 80 hours of classroom work? How did that happen?

Mr Robinson: I will have to check what numbers we looked at in each state and provide that information. At the end of the day we felt the situation was most unsatisfactory. We believe that we do need tighter prescription around training requirements in this sector, but we also believe that it cannot be really addressed if everyone has a different occupational licensing requirement.

Senator KIM CARR: So what are you going to do about it?

Mr Robinson: We are in the process of contacting all the states to seek to get a reprosecution of the decision they made a few years ago to harmonise these arrangements but never did it, and also we are writing to the Australian Industry Skills Council about some issues we believe need to be picked up in the training packages for these skills as well. They cannot really fix this up unless we get some more consistency.

Senator KIM CARR: The point is, though, that that requires a political response from governments. Minister, do you think it is an appropriate issue to raise with the ministerial council?

Senator Birmingham: It is Minister Hartsuyker who represents the Commonwealth on the skills ministerial council, but I think in the past these reviews have been the subject of conversation at times. Yes, particularly where licensing regimes could do with some harmonisation that would assist the process in relation to some of these matters, it is appropriate that it be looked at in a ministerial council context. I am happy to take it on notice, unless Dr Banerjee has anything to add on what steps are underway or will be put in place.

Answer

The Australian Skills Quality Authority provided the following response.

Of the 100 RTOs that responded to the survey issued as part of ASQA's strategic review, *Training in security programs in Australia*, one RTO self-reported that it was delivering the CPP20212 Certificate II in Security Operations in Queensland in two days via a combination of classroom and self-paced delivery.

The RTO's Queensland site was audited by ASQA in 2014 and found to be not compliant. The RTO was, however, able to demonstrate compliance after the 20 day rectification period.

The same RTO advertises the CPP20212 Certificate II in Security Operations for delivery in NSW with course duration of 126 hours of face to face learning in a classroom and simulated work environment.

The differences in course duration and delivery modes are driven largely by the differing licensing requirements imposed by the relevant State Governments. ASQA's strategic review makes a number of recommendations aimed at addressing the inconsistency in the State-based licensing arrangements and strengthening the requirements of the training package, notably, in relation to course duration.

ASQA's report into its national strategic review of training in the security industry made 8 recommendations to address concerns, including recommending that:

- licensing authorities agree on a single set of qualifications and units to be used in all jurisdictions, paving the way for consistent licensing arrangements;
- the training package be changed to more clearly specify:
 - assessment and amount of training requirements
 - what can be delivered and assessed online and what cannot, including what aspects need to be delivered in the workplace
 - the language, literacy and numeracy skill requirements of job roles, and
 - skills in safe restraint techniques, and
- there be a more strategic and systematic engagement between ASQA and the licensing authorities to facilitate information sharing and to achieve a coordinated response to licensing authority concerns about the quality and integrity of training and assessment.

The implementation of the strategic review's recommendations will considerably strengthen the quality and safety of security training and assessment provided to learners. This is particularly important: not only for the integrity of the VET sector, but also because this training is integral to safe practices and effective risk management in the security industry.

ASQA will work with the licensing authorities and industry representatives to implement these recommendations.