

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Agency: ASQA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000207

Senator Carr, Kim provided asked on 10 February 2016, Proof Hansard page 73

ASQA: Experience/training of ASQA audit staff

Question

Senator KIM CARR: I do not want to go over old ground, so let us deal with some new stuff. In regard to the internal auditors in your regulatory team, can you take me through what qualifications and experience they have? Perhaps you could give me what percentage of your audit teams have actually worked as qualified VET teachers with a diploma or higher teaching experience?

Mr Robinson: Liz will correct me if I am wrong. Our auditors are required to have a TAE qualification and certain audit qualifications as well.

Senator KIM CARR: But they do not have to have direct experience in the VET system?

Mr Robinson: The bulk of them have. I would have to go back and check how many have actually been VET teachers and trainers in the past, but that is not a mandatory requirement.

Senator KIM CARR: I know that.

Mr Robinson: A lot of them have been.

Senator KIM CARR: Will you be able to give me the percentage?

Mr Robinson: We will give you that information.

Senator KIM CARR: And will you be able to tell me how many of them have actually worked in a private or public RTO, as a percentage? Will you be able to tell me how many of them have worked in administration, management or the operations of a private RTO?

Mr Robinson: We will be able to give you that information on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: And how many of them have legal training—a degree, for instance?

CHAIR: A degree in legal training?

Mr Robinson: Most of the auditors will not have degrees.

CHAIR: I just want to be clear for the witnesses about what you are asking?

Senator KIM CARR: Are you able to assist me with that?

Mr Robinson: We can tell you how many of our staff have legal training and what roles they are in.

Senator KIM CARR: Not the staff—the audit teams.

Mr Robinson: Most of the audit teams will not have law degrees, nor do they need them.

Answer

The Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) has provided the following response.

Under Schedule 1 to the new *Standards for VET Regulators 2015* ASQA must ensure that each auditor holds at a minimum the following qualifications or equivalent competencies as determined by the Regulator:

- TAE40110 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment (or its successor)
- BSB51607 Diploma of Quality Auditing (or its successor).

In undertaking the above qualifications, the auditor must complete the following units of competency, or have equivalent competencies as determined by ASQA:

- from the Business Services Training Package (or its successor):
 - BSBAUD402B Participate in a quality audit (or its successor)
 - BSBAUD501B Initiate a quality audit (or its successor)
 - BSBAUD503B Lead a quality audit (or its successor)
 - BSBAUD504B Report on a quality audit (or its successor).
- from the Training and Education Training Package (or its successor):
 - TAEASS502B Design and develop assessment tools (or its successor)
 - TAEDES501A Design and develop learning strategies (or its successor)
 - TAEASS503A Lead assessment validation processes (or its successor).

Neither the new Standards, nor their predecessors, required ASQA audit staff to have formal legal training.

In relation to the specific matters raised in this question, ASQA undertook a survey of its audit staff. There were 75 responses to the survey, the findings were:

- 15 per cent of ASQA's surveyed audit staff have worked as teachers and hold a diploma, bachelor or higher qualification relating to training and assessment, vocational education and/or education. Another five per cent have worked as teachers but do not hold a diploma, bachelor or higher qualification relating to training and assessment, vocational education and/or education.
- 56 per cent of ASQA's surveyed audit staff have worked in a public or private RTO.
- In relation to private RTOs:
 - 16 per cent of ASQA's surveyed audit staff have worked for a private RTO in an administrative capacity.
 - 31 per cent of ASQA's surveyed audit staff have worked for a private RTO in a managerial capacity.
 - 29 per cent of ASQA's surveyed audit staff have worked for a private RTO in an operational capacity (trainer and/or assessor).
- 5 per cent of ASQA's surveyed audit staff hold a legal qualification (i.e. four staff). Three of these staff work in ASQA's Regulatory Operations team, while the remaining staff member works in ASQA's Risk, Intelligence and Regulatory Support team.