

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Agency: ASQA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000594

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

ASQA: Access Group Training

Question

There have been reports of employers in the childcare industry blacklisting students from certain colleges. Is the Department aware of any concerns in the industry relating to Access Group Training?

Answer

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

ASQA is aware of media reports that early childhood education and care employers (childcare centres) have started 'unofficial blacklists' of training providers that they will not use due to concerns with the quality of graduates.

To date ASQA has received one complaint from an industry stakeholder concerned about the quality of training at Access Group Training. ASQA assessed this complaint and decided not to take any regulatory action in this instance; the provider was informed of ASQA's decision and reminded that ASQA will retain information provided as part of the complaint and that this could be used by it to inform future regulatory activity.

ASQA is continuing to apply close regulatory scrutiny of the provision of training in the early childhood education and care sector. It is a mandatory requirement that where a training provider has these qualifications on its registration scope, any audit conducted by ASQA of that provider will examine the delivery of this training.

ASQA is working closely with the Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) and peak childcare provider associations to identify training providers of concern. ASQA also ensures that State and Territory Government are notified of any regulatory decisions taken against training providers, including those offering early childhood education and care training, in their jurisdictions.