

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018**

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000618

Senator Cameron, Doug asked on 31 May 2017, Proof Hansard page 98

AMEP and SEE Tender (Due Diligence and MAX Solutions)

Question

Senator CAMERON: Okay; it was prior to the end of February. ASQA were saying this morning that they had sought rectification from MAX Solutions and that even after rectification they were still non-compliant, so what is the problem with the communication between ASQA and the department that this could be allowed to happen?

Mr Morling: All I can tell you is that we did the due diligence checks, which included compliance checks, with ASQA. That did not raise any red flags at that time. The exact timing of when those due diligence checks were undertaken I will have to get back to you on notice.

Senator CAMERON: Can you provide me details, on notice, of the due diligence that you undertook with ASQA—any correspondence and any file notes between the department and ASQA on this issue.

Mr Morling: Yes, we will take that on notice.

Answer

The Department of Education and Training requested advice from the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) regarding compliance issues and the compliance history of preferred tenderers. This was received on 17 February 2017.

The advice from ASQA did not suggest any issues of compliance that would preclude the department entering into contracts with preferred tenderers.

Correspondence with ASQA has not been included. It is ASQA's view that it would not be in the public interest to release this information, given its release could inhibit ASQA's ability to effectively monitor the sector and detect providers and behaviours of concern.

Refer also QoN SQ17-000619.