

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Agency: ASQA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000714

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

ASQA - Audit for VET FEE-HELP providers and Smart City Vocational College

Question

In regards to the ASQA audit for VET FEE-HELP providers and Smart City Vocational College:

1. What type of non-compliance issues were identified with this provider?
2. Which particular courses were found to be problematic?
3. Could ASQA identify how long these practices had been in place prior to the audit?
4. Could ASQA identify how many students were affected by non-compliance practices?
5. Is ASQA confident that students who obtained qualifications from Smart City Vocational College to date have received quality training and appropriate qualifications for their industry?
6. Will ASQA have the capacity to check literacy and numeracy tests for Smart City Vocational College

Answer

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

1. The audit found non-compliance against the Standards for RTOs 2015 in the areas of assessment and marketing material. At the audit, the RTO advised that it had taken steps to change its enrolment and marketing practices. Notwithstanding these changes, the audit found non-compliance with the Standards for RTOs 2015 in relation to assessment practices and marketing material. In response, the RTO implemented strategies to address these issues.

On the basis of the audit findings, however, ASQA considered it necessary to monitor the RTO's implementation of its improved enrolment and assessment procedures. To assist in this regard, ASQA imposed certain conditions on the RTO's registration.

2. The audit included:
 - BSB50207 Diploma of Business
 - BSB51107 Diploma of Management.
3. ASQA conducts its audit at a point in time to test compliance. As such, it is not possible to comment on the practices of the RTO prior to the audit.
4. The RTO advised that the number of students enrolled in the courses audited as at the time of audit (30 April 2015), are as follows:
 - BSB50207 Diploma of Business – 352 students
 - BSB51107 Diploma of Management – 4088 Students
5. ASQA regulates RTOs not students.

6. ASQA has the ability to audit the mechanisms that the RTO uses to identify learner support needs which can include Literacy, Language and Numeracy tests.