

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000899

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

Direct regulation of brokers and marketing agents

Question

Has the department given consideration to the direct regulation of brokers and marketing agents? Is this considered a feasible response and how much is it likely to cost?

Answer

The new Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2015 (the Standards) ensure that training providers are now ultimately responsible for services delivered on their behalf, impose greater obligations around third-party arrangements, and clarify and extend requirements around marketing and disclosure to prospective students.

The new Standards came into effect for new training providers from 1 January 2015 and existing training providers from 1 April 2015. Brokers and marketing agents may also be subject to other legislative requirements such as the Australian Consumer Law.

The VET Guidelines also require training providers to be responsible for the conduct or acts undertaken by an agent, third party, or broker as of 1 July 2015.