

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000903

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

Complaints regarding disparity between security training in NSW and QLD

Question

1. Has the Department or the Minister received any complaints regarding the disparity between requirements for training for courses in New South Wales and Queensland for Certificate II in Security Operations?
2. Are you concerned about the safety of the public and of security guards who have only received 2 days training in order to receive a Cert II qualification?
3. In the meantime, is the Department taking any steps to ensure that quality training is provided to security guards?

Answer

1. As at 31 October 2015, the Minister for Vocational Education and Skills, The Hon Luke Hartsuyker MP had not received any relevant complaints. Under previous ministerial arrangements, the then Assistant Minister for Education and Training, Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, received relevant complaints from one correspondent, a NSW training provider, during 2015 through multiple avenues. The Department of Education and Training did not separately receive any relevant complaints.

2. The department is concerned by any information which suggests that substandard training is taking place, particularly where there are public safety implications. While the delivery of training in short timeframes may be legitimate in some circumstances, the *Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015* (the Standards) require all RTOs to ensure that the amount of training they provide to each learner enables them to meet the requirements of the relevant unit of competency.

3. Ensuring compliance with the Standards is the responsibility of the national vocational education and training regulator, the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA). The Australian Government has committed an additional \$68 million to ASQA over the forward estimates in order to provide support for its enhanced compliance measures.

ASQA commenced a strategic review of training for the security industry in 2014 and has announced its intention to release its report shortly. The department is working closely with ASQA on the review.

The department is also aware of the implications of inconsistent licensing requirements for the private security industry and continues to work with states and territories to improve standards in the industry.