

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio  
Additional Estimates Hearing 2011-12  
15 February 2012

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** AUSTRALIAN SKILLS QUALITY AUTHORITY (ASQA)

**TOPIC:** ASQA Accreditation Applications

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Payne

**QUESTION No:** AI-72

Can the Department provide details of the number and proportion of applications that require amendment following lodgment in order to meet the ASQA accreditation application requirements, the number and proportion of these that have then been rejected, either on their merits or due to the delays causing time limits to be exceeded?

**ANSWER**

- ASQA has received a total of 1967 applications since beginning on 1 July 2011 to December 31 2011. This was an unexpectedly high volume of work and reflects a larger than expected number of applications being passed over to ASQA from state and territory regulators on 1 July 2011.
- Of the total 1967 applications for Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) registration by December 31 2011 over half of all applications received (52.8 per cent) had been finalised:
  - 44.3 per cent were approved.
  - 5.4 per cent were refused.
  - 3.1 per cent were withdrawn.
- The remaining 47.2 per cent were undergoing further risk assessment or in the process of being audited.
- 610 of the above applications were initially lodged with state or territory regulators, however given regulatory action had not been completed these were transferred to ASQA on 1 July 2011. By 31 December 2011 regulatory activity was underway or was completed for all of these applications.
- ASQA has not set time limits for registration processing given it allows applicant organisations to collect and refine their information to enable processing to continue.
- If an application requires amendment ASQA contacts the applicant and requests that they provide the additional information. ASQA does not collect statistics on this.