

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2012-13
13 February 2013

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: AUSTRALIAN SKILLS QUALITY AUTHORITY (ASQA)

TOPIC: ELICOS

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 13 February 2013, page 99)

QUESTION No.: AI-49

Senator RHIANNON: Okay. I will come back to that one, just because of time. I want to ask about teaching in private VET the English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students—the ELICOS. Are there any minimum requirements here for ELICOS teachers?

Mr C Robinson: There is a code set out in the act, and there are specific standards for ELICOS. I believe they include the qualifications that teachers are required to have.

Senator RHIANNON: I was particularly interested in what the standards are for the International English Language Testing System. You can take it on notice.

Mr C Robinson: I will take that one on notice. There are standards that we assess them against. They are specific to the English language providers and are different to the ones the VET providers are generally assessed against.

ANSWER

The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is a series of standardised tests covering listening, reading, writing and speaking. IELTS, owned by a private British company, is delivered in over 800 locations worldwide and is one of five English language proficiency tests accepted by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) for student visa purposes.

Australian providers wishing to offer education/training services to overseas students must comply with the *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000*, including the associated National Code (the National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2007).

The National Code requires providers to clearly inform prospective students about English language proficiency requirements.