

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: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Regulation

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Nash

QUESTION No. AI-57

1. An article in *The Australian* on 11 February referred to industry concern surrounding regulations set to see registered training providers required to provide the same information for all students, irrespective of the duration of the course they are undertaking. Is the Department considering reducing the compliance burden on providers of courses that may only last a day or two?
2. What will the requirement on a provider be, when enrolling a student?
3. How many questions will the student be required to answer?
4. Has the department considered the cost of compliance to providers?
5. Has the department considered the likely implications of providers no longer being willing to offer short courses due to high administrative burden?
6. What impact will this have on the availability of critical courses such as first aid?

ANSWER

1. In agreeing the mandatory collection and reporting of VET Activity in November 2012, the Standing Council on Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment asked for advice on methods to ameliorate the burden on small RTOs.
2. For TAFEs and publicly subsidised VET this information is already routinely collected and reported. Under the new arrangements private fee-for-service VET activity and VET provided by enterprise RTOs will need to ask a standard set of questions and be report that information.
3. The Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Standard sets out the enrolment data that is expected to be routinely collected.
4. A Council of Australian Governments Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) considered the compliance costs and a range of other impacts for RTOs identified through the consultation process, as well as the benefits likely to accrue from the use of training activity data. The RIS concluded that the mandatory reporting and collection of VET activity data will lead to overall public benefit.
5. The department is leading a consultation process to inform the development of implementation details, in conjunction with the states and territories, for consideration by SCOTese.
6. The department is consulting with providers delivering courses such as first aid.