

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation

DEEWR Question No. EW0963_13

Senator Nash asked on 14 February 2013, Hansard page 16

Question

LivingSocial website - Advertising heavily discounted childcare qualifications

Senator NASH: I understand there is a LivingSocial website that is advertising heavily discounted childcare qualifications. Is that correct? I do not believe everything I hear in reporting these days, so I thought I had better check. Ms Taylor: I would have to take that on notice. Senator NASH: All right. It is the LivingSocial website. I am just concerned if we have I guess the promotion of heavily discounted qualifications, how is that oversights and what is the quality assurance within that? Is it just simply a business proposition, or is it perhaps an organisation that is not as fulsome as it should be in the provision of its training? Ms Paul: LivingSocial keep emailing me, and I have not seen it on any of their daily or twice daily offers. But I know that just because it is being offered at a discount does not mean it is not quality. That is the nature of what they are doing. Senator NASH: That is exactly why I just made that point. Ms Paul: But I certainly have not seen it. We will have a look for you. Senator NASH: All right, that would be great.

Answer

The Department confirms that the LivingSocial website has advertised Certificate III in Children's Services qualifications.

All Registered Training Organisation are required to meet the *Standards for NVR Registered Training Organisations 2012*, which guide nationally consistent, high-quality training and assessment services in the vocational education and training system.

The Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) is the national regulator for Australia's vocational education and training sector. ASQA regulates courses and training providers to ensure nationally approved quality standards are met.