

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2
Output Group: 2.1

DEST Question No. E378_04

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Answer E540_04 provides details of the auditing of RTOs situated in schools as part of VET in Schools.

- (a) It seems that progress towards auditing of all school RTOs has been very varied across the states and territories. Has there been any analysis on why this is so?
- (b) Is it connected to the number of such RTOs in each state? NSW seems to be especially slow. Do you know why this is? Have you asked NSW about it?
- (c) Where there has been non-compliance, have you conducted any analysis on trends and possible reasons for this?
- (d) What action has been taken by DEST to ensure that states and territories are monitoring compliance by school-based RTOs in a timely and adequate fashion?
- (e) What do you believe the length of the auditing cycle for school RTOs should be? Every two years? Five years?

Answer:

RTOs

ANTA has provided the following response:

Under the Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF), *Standards for State and Territory Registering/Course Accrediting Bodies*, the standards for undertaking audit and evaluation functions are outlined.

The registering body must ensure that all training organisations that apply to be registered, and all RTOs that it has registered, are audited for compliance with the *Standards for Registered Training Organisations*.

Schools that are RTOs are audited for compliance in the same manner as other RTOs.

The registering body must adopt a nationally consistent approach to the targeting and frequency of audits, based on a fully developed risk management approach and which will include:

- a) an audit preceding the initial registration of a training organisation;
- b) an audit at least within 12 months of the RTO's initial registration;
- c) audits for targeted RTOs within the registration period, undertaken in response to identified risk factors or as part of a program of strategic industry audits, or in response to complaints; and
- d) an audit of the RTO prior to renewal of its registration.

Continuing registration must be conditional upon continuing compliance with the *Standards for Registered training Organisations*.

The KPA Consulting report to ANTA on quality in VET in Schools in 2003 found that concerns about the implementation process of the AQTF in the schools sector are ill founded. It also found that the implementation of the AQTF is proceeding in all jurisdictions at the same pace, and sometimes at a faster pace compared with other RTOs and that State and Territory registration authorities are applying the same standards, procedures and level of evidence to school audits as to other RTOs.