

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome: Agency: ASQA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000020

Senator Cameron, Doug asked on 01 March 2017, Proof Hansard page 14

ASQA - average compliance figures

Question

Senator CAMERON: Thanks. On notice, based on the average compliance figures that we spoke about earlier, can you provide details on the average hours that ASQA spends on compliance for each RTO that is registered with you? Is there an average figure? Have you done—this is on notice—any risk assessments about the adequacy of the compliance rate and what those assessments found?

Prof. Lavarch: Yes, we can get you those.

Mr Paterson: I understand you have asked for that on notice. The first part of that question, Senator, is not something for which we have done the calculation. I do not know whether we even have records that would enable us to do that calculation to respond to your question. I cannot guarantee that we will, on notice, respond to the first part of your question because I do not know that we have the information to enable us to respond to it, but we will examine the question.

Answer

The Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) has provided the following response

Providing an average time ASQA spends on compliance for each RTO it regulates is problematic as:

- ASQA's approach to its compliance activities, as well as the types of activities undertaken, have changed and evolved over time;
- ASQA's provider population has (and is) continually changing (i.e. providers entering and leaving);
- ASQA's enhanced risk modelling means that high quality RTOs are subjected to minimal regulatory burden, whereas those RTOs not providing quality training and assessment are appropriately subject to increased regulatory scrutiny;
- Time spent on individual compliance activity varies significantly depending on the circumstances in each particular instance. As an example, a routine application to modify its scope of registration from a provider with a good track record of compliance may be completed in as little as one day, while a comprehensive compliance audit, visiting multiple sites, may take several months.

Given this, the calculation of an average figure would be misleading and not indicative of ASQA's actual interactions with providers when undertaking compliance activity.