

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Additional Budget Estimates Hearing 2013-14
27 February 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: ASQA Operations

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Kim Carr

QUESTION No.: AI-142

With regard to ASQA:

1. Can the Department now confirm the release date for the ASQA Process Review? In response to Question S1-146 (21 November 2013) it was noted that the Reference Committee will report its findings to Ministers in “early 2014”. Has the Minister received the report and when will it be released?
2. Following recent reports regarding problems in training in the aged and community care industry, the child care industry, the construction industry and general problems with deceptive marketing and fee collection across the sector, will ASQA continue to play a vital role in ensuring that quality training is delivered and confidence in the industry maintained?
3. Has the Minister or his office requested or been provided with any briefings on any options for a restructure of ASQA?
4. Has the Minister or his office requested or been provided with any briefings on alternate funding proposals for ASQA?
5. Has the Minister or his office requested or been provided with any briefings on an alternative training quality compliance system or body?
6. When will the government be responding to ASQA’s recent reports into marketing, the aged and community care sector and the construction sector?

ANSWER

1. The department is not able to confirm the release of the report of the ASQA Process Review. The report is not finalised at this stage and the Minister has not received it.
2. Yes.
- 3-5. The department has provided briefing on a range of VET topics including issues related to ASQA.
6. These strategic reviews are an integral part of ASQA’s regulatory work to maintain and enhance vocational education and training standards across the nation.

Following the release of these reviews in December 2013, Minister Macfarlane wrote to the National Skills Standards Council and Industry Skills Councils requesting that they consider the relevant findings and recommendations. ASQA, as the body responsible for regulating the sector, is working within the sector and with other key stakeholders to address the issues identified in the strategic reviews and implement the recommendations.