



Australian Government

Australian Skills Quality Authority

Senate Estimates: February 2014

## AUSTRALIAN SKILLS QUALITY AUTHORITY (ASQA) - OPENING STATEMENT

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ASQA is the national regulator for vocational education and training (VET) in Australia. It also regulates providers delivering VET and English language education to international students in Australia.

Between 1 July 2012 and 31 December 2013 ASQA undertook 470 audits of new applicant training organisations and 2,388 audits of existing registered training organisations (RTOs) from across Australia. These audits test compliance with national standards. 78.9% of the existing RTOs audited were found to have at least one instance of non-compliance at the initial audit.

Following a 20-day rectification period in which ASQA allows RTOs to address any identified deficiencies and prove their compliance, 24.5% of RTOs were still found to have at least one instance of non-compliance.

Only 23% of existing RTOs audited by ASQA between 1 July 2012 and 31 December 2013 were found to be fully compliant with National Standard No. 15 (Training and Assessment). Following rectification 76% of RTOs audited were found to be compliant.

A strong VET sector is essential to Australia's economic prosperity. We need to ensure that training providers are delivering the education and training that Australians need so that they can get jobs. Employers and industry have made it clear to ASQA that they expect national regulation to ensure that high quality vocational education and training is provided that meets employer needs. Industry skill needs are defined as competency standards in training packages.

In its first two and a half years (1 July 2011 to 31 December 2013) ASQA took the decision to cancel or suspend the registration or to refuse the re-registration of 206 individual existing RTOs because they did not comply with the standards. ASQA also refused 104 applications to establish new training organisations.