

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2014-15
23 October 2013

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA)

TOPIC: Unscrupulous Registered Training Organisations

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 23 October 2014, pages 60-61)

QUESTION No.: SI-28

Senator RHIANNON: Have you looked at Aussia?

Mr Robinson: No, we have not seen that one.

Senator RHIANNON: If I understood correctly from—

Mr Robinson: I will be looking at it straight away after this.

Senator RHIANNON: I thought that you had said in response to an earlier question that if it comes up in the media then you look at it. On 10 October, the ABC covered this one and I did find the figures concerning. It is not an RTO, but it is advertising three courses—early childhood, business and management. The diploma of early childhood is \$11,000. At TAFE it is \$1,500.

Mr Robinson: I will look into that one straightaway. That program sounds like a formal VET program, so we will have to check that out.

Senator RHIANNON: It certainly comes across that way.

Mr Robinson: Yes, and it sounds like if it is not, they are mirroring it and we could have some power to act on them anyway. We will have a look at that.

Senator RHIANNON: Considering it is prominent and got a lot of coverage, could I ask how did you come to miss that one?

Mr Robinson: I am not sure that we did miss it. I will have to check. I just do not recall that one.

Senator RHIANNON: If you could take that on notice.

Mr Robinson: Yes.

ANSWER

The Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) is currently investigating Registered Training Organisation (RTO) Access Group Training Ltd (RTO No.90867) which has been linked to Aussia, this investigation commenced on 6 October 2014. Aussia is not a RTO and ASQA is currently investigating if they are purporting to be an RTO (which would be a breach of the NVETR Act) or if they were working on behalf of Access Group Training. Current arrangements make it difficult for ASQA to take action against non-RTOs acting as brokers for RTOs. The commencement of new standards for RTOs from 1 April 2015 (for existing RTOs) will strengthen ASQA's regulatory oversight in this regard.