

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015**

**Outcome: Agency: ASQA**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000096**

Senator Rhiannon, Lee provided in writing.

***ASQA - Aspin***

**Question**

May I have details about the specific issues were found in relation to the practices of Aspin, a subsidiary of Vocation, that led to ASQA issuing Aspin an ultimatum and then ultimately its closing down?

**Answer**

*Australian Skills Quality Authority has provided the following response.*

The Vocation Group consists of the publically listed company, Vocation Ltd, which holds full or partial ownership of several higher education and vocational training providers, which included Aspin Pty Ltd.

Since mid-2014, Vocation Ltd has been the subject of media reporting on its capital raising activities and share market valuation. As such, ASQA Commissioners had begun keeping a 'watching brief' on the company and its ASQA regulated RTOs.

In August 2014, the Victorian Government alerted ASQA to its concerns that BAWM Pty Ltd (regulated by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority) and Aspin Pty Ltd were producing poor quality training outcomes and may be in breach of the NVR Standards. In response, ASQA conducted a compliance monitoring audit of Aspin Pty Ltd in September 2014. ASQA then undertook a full audit of the RTO. Aspin Pty Ltd subsequently withdrew its registration after receiving an initial audit report from ASQA in October 2014 identifying significant non compliances.

Aspin Pty Ltd was deregistered as of 31 January 2015.

The Government's initiatives in providing new standards for RTOs, \$68 million in funding and a new infringement notice scheme are enabling ASQA to focus its resources on addressing high risk providers such as Aspin.