

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000104

Senator Rhiannon, Lee provided in writing.

Vocational education qualifications

Question

What is the progress with tendering or procuring the development of vocational education qualifications foreshadowed in the Government's discussion paper on 'Industry engagement in training package development – towards a contestable model'?

What is the teaching or other educational expertise of the body 'procuring' the development of vocational qualifications?

In view of the extensive failures of quality and standards in the contestable delivery of vocational qualifications, what measures have the Government put in place to protect quality and standards with the contestable development of vocational qualifications

Answer

The Government has announced an intention to conduct an Expression of Interest process in June/July 2015.

The bodies to be funded will be selected on a range of capabilities relating to developing industry competency training product requirements.

Concerns over quality in training are being addressed through a number of measures, including:

- New Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015 which came into full effect on April 1, 2015
- A commitment of \$68m in funding for the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) to enforce the standards
- An infringement notice scheme in addition to existing penalties available to ASQA
- VET FEE-HELP reforms to protect students, taxpayers and the reputation of the sector. See <http://studyassist.gov.au/sites/StudyAssist/HELPpayingMyFees/VET-FEE-HELP/Documents/VET%20FEE%20HELP%20Reforms%20Factsheet-%20Implementation%20Overview.PDF> for further information.