

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000206

Senator Carr, Kim asked on 10 February 2016, Proof Hansard page 80

Concerns regarding Phoenix

Question

Senator KIM CARR: This is a question where I am highly critical of the way ASQA has responded but, equally, I could perhaps ask the department what you did about this?

Dr Banerjee: There were some conversations in the middle of last year where the combination of a clear increase in the number of complaints that had come through—which is part of what Mr Robinson has said—and some startling increases in the estimates of student numbers came together.

Senator KIM CARR: Can you tell me at what point you first raised the issue of Phoenix with ASQA? What was the date?

Dr Banerjee: I will take that on notice.

Answer

The Department of Education and Training works closely with the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) and other agencies to discharge respective obligations for regulation under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* and *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator (NVR) Act 2011*.

Interactions between the department and ASQA occur routinely, including informal discussions of a variety of issues and involving a range of VET providers such as Phoenix. The first evidence of formal discussions regarding Phoenix were held was on 30 June 2015.