

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

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

**Outcome: Skills and Training**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000598**

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

***Triggers for audit of an RTO (SQ15-000814)***

**Question**

I refer to SQ15-000814, in which the Department provided the Committee with a list of possible triggers that could set in motion an audit of an RTO. Which of these would automatically form triggers?

In particular, would requests for large increases in VET FEE-HELP advances and rapid growth in enrolments automatically trigger an audit? Or would some of the other factors need to be present as well? Which ones are crucial?

**Answer**

The Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) has provided the following response.

A combination of triggers assist the Department of Education and Training in its risk based approach to compliance in order to identify providers potentially requiring compliance action:

- requests for large increases to VET FEE-HELP advances
- anomalies in submitted data
- rapid growth in enrolments
- compliance with the *Higher Education Support Act* and the VET FEE-HELP Guidelines
- financial viability concerns
- intelligence and information received from ASQA, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and state consumer protection agencies
- complaints received from consumers, the public, other providers and other government agencies
- adverse media reporting.

In terms of high risk or red flag triggers, the metrics that would give rise to greater concern are a combination of rapid growth in enrolments leading to requests for large increases in VET FEE-HELP advances. The volume and type of complaints about a VET provider are a key consideration in planning audit activities with ASQA.