

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Agency: ASQA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000668

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

ASQA: Security guard training colleges

Question

The report found that 80.6 per cent of the 67 audited security guard training colleges were found to be non-compliant. In releasing the report, Chris Robertson said that people were crossing borders to attain licences in easier jurisdictions and that inconsistent licensing would continue until arrangements were fixed.

- Can the Department explain how training colleges in Queensland are able to conduct the training in two days online when NSW training colleges require 80 hours of classroom based work?
- Has ASQA or the Department taken any action to ensure that training is consistent at training colleges across the country?

Answer

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

ASQA's *Training in security programs in Australia* strategic review into training in the security industry review was informed by 67 audits of RTOs which were conducted by ASQA between 1 July 2013 and 31 December 2014 against the 2012 Standards for RTOs. Only 13 RTOs (19.4 per cent) were able to demonstrate full compliance with the Standards at the initial audit. Subsequently, a further 50 RTOs (74.6 per cent) were able to demonstrate compliance in response to ASQA's regulatory processes. Of the remaining four RTOs, three RTOs (4.5 per cent) did not achieve compliance and are no longer registered training organisations and one RTO (1.5 per cent) has sought a review of ASQA's decision to cancel its registration at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the matter is not yet finalised.

The training package that contains the relevant security qualifications does not explicitly specify the amount of training or mode of delivery required to obtain a security qualification. ASQA is only able to regulate against the Standards for Registered Training Organisations which provides that a training provider must meet the requirements of a training package. ASQA has recommended that the training package be reviewed to address issues of content and structure.

The differences in course duration and delivery modes are driven largely by the differing licensing requirements imposed by the relevant State Governments. ASQA's strategic review makes a number of recommendations to licensing authorities aimed at addressing the inconsistency in the State-based licensing arrangements and strengthening the requirements of the training package, notably, in relation to course duration. ASQA is engaging with the licensing authorities to progress the relevant recommendations from the review.