

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Agency: ASQA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000296

Senator Rhiannon, Lee asked on 03 June 2015, Proof Hansard page 45

ASQA: process for determining if an RTO is high risk

Question

Senator RHIANNON: Do you have a set of criteria that you check off against, or is it just making an assessment?

Mr Robinson: No. We have particular items that we look at. We give them different weightings. We come up with a range of risks that we think an RTO is in. Around 10 per cent of the RTOs that we deal with we would assess as being in the high-risk range.

Senator RHIANNON: Can you table your process for determining that, please?

Mr Robinson: We could provide you with information about that, yes.

Answer

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

- ASQA administers a quantitative scoring methodology to indicate the risk of an RTO adjudging a learner as competent despite not possessing the required skills and knowledge, and considers the likelihood of this happening against its potential impact on the community. This score then determines the RTO's risk rating of high, medium or low as a comparison to other RTOs and is used by ASQA to target its regulatory effort.
- Most factors consider the RTO's history of complying as a base indicator of future expectations. A risk rating is only assigned when ASQA has access to sufficient data about the RTO's performance and behaviour, usually after about 2 years of registration.
- The current factors contributing to a risk score, from greatest to lowest weighting, are:
 - History of not being able to demonstrate compliance at audits/reviews
 - History of having stakeholder complaints found substantiated
 - History of having compliance breaches published on the national register
 - History of having satisfied quality indicator data reporting obligations
- Additional points are accrued by RTOs that are in their first registration cycle, have recently expanded their scope of registration into new areas, have had complaints lodged but not yet resolved, and have Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students registration to deliver to international students.
- ASQA continues to review and improve its systems to identify providers of heightened risk exposure as new data sources become available and accessible. For instance, ASQA will soon be able to access provider-level total VET activity data.