

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2011-12
15 February 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Victorian VET

REFERENCE: Written Question - Senator Rhiannon

QUESTION No.: AI-173

A recent example of rorts by private providers in Victoria involved a private provider offering a CIV in Outdoor Recreation to more than 10 community sports groups. The private provider, Vocational Training Group, was offering an incentive of \$1000 per student to the sports group and \$500 to each student. This qualification, which attracts funding for anywhere between 700 – 1,100 hours of delivery, was being offered over nine evenings (about 27 hours) by this provider. This means that the provider was receiving between 700 and 1,100 hours of funding at \$7 per hour for a qualification it was delivering in about 27 hours (Flyer attached).

- a. What proportion of this funding was federal? What budget did it come from?
- b. How long had this provider been operating and offering this qualification?
- c. How much federal funding was expended by this private provider in this exercise?
- d. What does the government intend to do to make sure this does not occur again?
- e. Do you regard that examples like this are undermining confidence in vocational education qualifications, and in the national VET system?
- f. Do you have confidence in the Victorian and other state governments' capacity to assure quality in an increasingly competitive market?
- g. Private providers in Victoria can recognise prior learning for students for full qualifications and receive the same funding per student contact hour that they received if they had delivered the full qualification. Did Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) increase in Victoria in 2009, 2010 and 2011?
- h. If it did, by how much compared to 2008, in what fields of education and at what qualification levels?

ANSWER

- a. The provider promoted this course is being funded through the Victorian Government Training Guarantee. Funding under the Victorian Government Training Guarantee is administered by Skills Victoria. The Australian Government provides skills funding to the Victorian Government under the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development and under a specific bilateral arrangement.
- b. According to the information on the national register (www.training.gov.au), the Vocational Training Group Pty Ltd was first registered by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) as a registered training organisation from 1 July 2002 for a period of five years. The provider's registration was renewed on 30 June 2007 and

cancelled by the VRQA on 2 December 2011. The provider was authorised by the VRQA to deliver and assess Certificate IV in Outdoor Recreation in the state of Victoria from 7 October 2008 until registration was cancelled on 2 December 2011.

- c. The department provided no direct federal funding to the private provider.

The department holds no data on the proportion of Australian Government funding for this program at either the jurisdiction or registered training organisation level.

- d. Management of funding through the Victorian Government Training Guarantee is a matter for the Victorian Government.

The following information is in response to (e) and (f).

The Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) commenced operations on 1 July 2011 as Australia's new national vocational education and training (VET) regulator.

ASQA has been established with the capability and powers to examine quality concerns in all areas of the VET. It has been provided with the full spectrum of regulatory actions – administrative, civil and criminal - to ensure that training is of the highest possible standard.

ASQA was established specifically to improve the quality of the VET sector, provide greater regulatory consistency and increase the confidence of stakeholders. All states and territories have supported the establishment of a national VET regulator, except Victoria and Western Australia.

ASQA currently has jurisdiction over all registered training organisations (RTOs) operating in New South Wales, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory. South Australia will join the national regulator in late March 2012 and Queensland is expected to follow by June 2012. ASQA also has jurisdiction over Registered Training Organisations operating in Victoria and Western Australia that offer VET courses in a referring state or territory and/or to overseas students.

The Chief Commissioner of ASQA has formally offered both the Victorian Minister for Higher Education and Skills and Skills Victoria its cooperation in any audits that may be necessary relating to the quality of training delivery by providers in that state that may have engaged in the practice of offering financial incentives to individuals or clubs to encourage them to enrol members in specific courses.

- g. In 2008, 3.6 per cent of total Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) qualifications in Victoria were obtained through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). In 2009 this increased to 5 per cent of the total AQF qualifications and in 2010 the total was 6.9 per cent of all AQF qualifications in Victoria. This is consistent with an increase in RPL nationally as demonstrated in the tables below.

TABLE A - Total RPL in Victoria

Full Year Training Equilavant (FYTE)	Sum of FYTE			% Annual Contribution		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
Others	168,581	178,731	192,358	96.2%	94.7%	92.7%
Recognition of prior learning - granted	6,389	9,356	14,363	3.6%	5.0%	6.9%
Recognition of prior learning - not granted	303	656	786	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%
Grand Total	175,273	188,742	207,506	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE B - Total RPL in Australia

	Sum of FYTE			% Annual Contribution		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
Others	541,540	574,175	609,152	95.3%	94.2%	92.9%
Recognition of prior learning - granted	26,228	34,389	45,246	4.6%	5.6%	6.9%
Recognition of prior learning - not granted	589	1,020	1,415	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Grand Total	568,357	609,583	655,814	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- h. There was an increase in RPL across all fields of education in Victoria between 2008 and 2010 (see **Table C**). Similarly there was an increase in RPL across all levels of AQF qualifications (See **Table D**).

Note: Data source is NCVER VET Provider Collection, Subjects, 2002-2010.

TABLE C - RPL in Victoria by Field of Education

Field of Education	Sum of FYTE			Total annual percentage		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
01 - Natural and physical sciences	2,934	3,013	2,902	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Others	2,829	2,867	2,626	96.4%	95.1%	90.5%
Recognition of prior learning - granted	100	140	238	3.4%	4.7%	8.2%
Recognition of prior learning - not granted	5	6	38	0.2%	0.2%	1.3%
02 - Information technology	3,952	4,310	4,319	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Others	3,865	4,161	4,151	97.8%	96.5%	96.1%
Recognition of prior learning - granted	86	137	159	2.2%	3.2%	3.7%
Recognition of prior learning - not granted	<5	12	9	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%
03 - Engineering and related technologies	26,066	26,828	27,061	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Others	24,976	25,532	25,190	95.8%	95.2%	93.1%
Recognition of prior learning - granted	1,012	1,160	1,765	3.9%	4.3%	6.5%
Recognition of prior learning - not granted	77	135	106	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%
04 - Architecture and building	9,811	11,247	13,283	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Others	9,586	10,991	12,728	97.7%	97.7%	95.8%
Recognition of prior learning - granted	216	236	524	2.2%	2.1%	3.9%
Recognition of prior learning - not granted	9	20	31	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
05 - Agriculture, environmental and related studies	4,248	4,160	4,704	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Others	4,014	3,783	3,973	94.5%	90.9%	84.5%
Recognition of prior learning - granted	217	344	702	5.1%	8.3%	14.9%
Recognition of prior learning - not granted	18	32	29	0.4%	0.8%	0.6%
06 - Health	14,044	16,273	20,101	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Others	13,493	15,344	18,539	96.1%	94.3%	92.2%
Recognition of prior learning - granted	533	886	1,489	3.8%	5.4%	7.4%
Recognition of prior learning - not granted	17	43	73	0.1%	0.3%	0.4%
07 - Education	3,357	4,284	5,002	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Others	3,015	3,778	4,242	89.8%	88.2%	84.8%
Recognition of prior learning - granted	333	475	719	9.9%	11.1%	14.4%
Recognition of prior learning - not granted	9	32	42	0.3%	0.7%	0.8%
08 - Management and commerce	42,050	42,048	48,365	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Others	39,941	38,847	43,422	95.0%	92.4%	89.8%
Recognition of prior learning - granted	2,013	2,968	4,660	4.8%	7.1%	9.6%
Recognition of prior learning - not granted	96	233	282	0.2%	0.6%	0.6%
09 - Society and culture	17,427	21,203	21,506	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Others	16,656	19,952	19,877	95.6%	94.1%	92.4%
Recognition of prior learning - granted	738	1,176	1,559	4.2%	5.5%	7.2%
Recognition of prior learning - not granted	34	74	70	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%
10 - Creative arts	7,084	7,865	8,900	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Others	6,916	7,630	8,610	97.6%	97.0%	96.7%
Recognition of prior learning - granted	162	228	279	2.3%	2.9%	3.1%
Recognition of prior learning - not granted	6	7	10	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
11 - Food, hospitality and personal services	10,870	12,534	14,582	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Others	10,628	12,105	13,676	97.8%	96.6%	93.8%
Recognition of prior learning - granted	237	410	852	2.2%	3.3%	5.8%
Recognition of prior learning - not granted	6	20	54	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%
12 - Mixed field programmes	33,429	34,976	36,781	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Others	32,662	33,740	35,324	97.7%	96.5%	96.0%
Recognition of prior learning - granted	742	1,195	1,417	2.2%	3.4%	3.9%
Recognition of prior learning - not granted	25	41	41	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Grand Total	175,273	188,742	207,506			

TABLE D - RPL in Victoria by Qualification

Qualification	Sum of FYTE			Total Annual Percentage		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
Certificate I	9,750	7,986	7,605	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Others	9,735	7,965	7,490	99.8%	99.7%	98.5%
Recognition of prior learning - granted	15	21	115	0.2%	0.3%	1.5%
Recognition of prior learning - not granted	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Certificate II	23,338	25,775	28,282	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Others	22,827	25,097	27,308	97.8%	97.4%	96.6%
Recognition of prior learning - granted	485	636	919	2.1%	2.5%	3.2%
Recognition of prior learning - not granted	25	42	55	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Certificate III	55,215	58,237	65,855	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Others	53,378	55,667	61,679	96.7%	95.6%	93.7%
Recognition of prior learning - granted	1,732	2,394	4,010	3.1%	4.1%	6.1%
Recognition of prior learning - not granted	105	175	165	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%
Certificate IV	25,804	31,239	36,274	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Others	24,193	28,448	32,003	93.8%	91.1%	88.2%
Recognition of prior learning - granted	1,527	2,632	4,096	5.9%	8.4%	11.3%
Recognition of prior learning - not granted	84	160	175	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%
Diploma or higher	42,886	49,848	54,638	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Others	40,321	45,930	49,143	94.0%	92.1%	89.9%
Recognition of prior learning - granted	2,485	3,640	5,106	5.8%	7.3%	9.3%
Recognition of prior learning - not granted	80	278	390	0.2%	0.6%	0.7%
Non AQF qualification	12,626	12,873	12,150	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Others	12,516	12,846	12,040	99.1%	99.8%	99.1%
Recognition of prior learning - granted	110	27	110	0.9%	0.2%	0.9%
Recognition of prior learning - not granted	0			0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	5,653	2,785	2,702	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Others	5,612	2,778	2,694	99.3%	99.8%	99.7%
Recognition of prior learning - granted	34	6	9	0.6%	0.2%	0.3%
Recognition of prior learning - not granted	7	0		0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Grand Total	175,273	188,742	207,506			