

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: AUSTRALIAN SKILLS QUALITY AUTHORITY (ASQA)

TOPIC: ASQA Accreditation Applications

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Payne

QUESTION No: AI-73

Can the Department advise of the average processing time, by jurisdiction, for applications for ASQA accreditation since July 1 2011 that have been accepted, rejected or required amendments by the applicant? Can the Department also provide details of the number and proportion of applications that have required amendment?

ANSWER

- The timeframe for processing applications varies dependent upon the applicant providing all the required documentation that demonstrates compliance with required standards. This process and timeframe may be extended when issues of potential non compliance are identified so that audits are conducted and applicants given time to address issues.
- ASQA received a total of 1967 applications since beginning on 1 July 2011 to 31 December 2011. Given the high volume of complex applications that had initially commenced with other state and territory regulators but transferred to ASQA it has not been possible to determine an average time for processing applications. As the applications shift to a more representative mix of categories it should be possible to determine an average time for processing applications.
- The jurisdictional breakdown of applications is as follows:

o	NSW	901
o	VIC	795
o	WA	164
o	ACT	66
o	NT	41
- If an application requires amendment ASQA contacts the applicant and requests that they provide the additional information. ASQA does not collect statistics on this.