

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009-10**

**Outcome/Agency**                      International Group - Outcome 3

**DEEWR Question No.**                **EW580\_10**

Senator Cash provided in writing.

**Question**

*Australian Institute of Commerce and Language*

- a) Does the Australian Institute of Commerce and Language (AICL) currently offer a Diploma of Community Welfare?
- b) On what date did AICL apply for registration for this course?
- c) How long does the accreditation process take?
- d) If AICL does not have accreditation for the Diploma of Community Welfare course, why is it being allowed to offer placements to former Sterling College students?
- e) What impact will the lack of accreditation have on a student's graduation? Will it affect the legitimacy of the qualification if the provider is not accredited to provide that qualification as a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) ?

**Answer**

*Australian Institute of Commerce and Language*

- a) Yes
- b) AICL applied to the NSW Vocational Education and Training Board (NSW VETAB) to have the Diploma of Community Welfare Work added to its registration on 19 August 2009. AICL's application to offer the Diploma of Community Welfare to students was approved by the NSW VETAB on 9 September 2009.
- c) This question appears to relate to the accreditation of AICL by the Australian Institute of Welfare and Community Workers Inc (AIWCW). The timeframe for accreditation of a provider with the AIWCW is a matter between the Institute and the provider.
- d) AICL is approved by the NSW VETAB to offer students a Diploma of Community Welfare. This is the approval required under the Australian Qualifications and Training Framework for colleges to deliver courses to students.

This approval should not be confused with an accreditation of programs by AIWCW. The AIWCW is a Professional Body with many functions. Accreditation of Programs is one of these functions. Individuals who graduate from programs accredited by AIWCW can become members of the Professional Organisation and as a result of graduating from an AIWCW accredited course can apply to have their skills assessed for General skilled migration in a streamlined fashion since their course has met AIWCW accreditation standards.

AIWCW is also an Assessing Authority for General Skilled Migration (GSM) specified by the Minister for Immigration in accordance with the Migration Regulations 1994. Individuals who want to apply for GSM using their Welfare worker qualifications are assessed by AIWCW. AIWCW assesses all potential migrants with Welfare worker qualifications. Candidates who graduate from programs not accredited by AIWCW can still apply for a skills assessment from AIWCW.

- e) See answer to (d) above. Lack of accreditation by the AIWCW does not have any impact on the legitimacy of the qualification issued by AICL. AICL applied to have its course accredited by AIWCW and this accreditation was received on 8 October 2009.