

ASQA activities, priorities and plans for the future

14 November 2018

Saxon Rice, Deputy Chief Commissioner and
Commissioner, Risk Intelligence and Regulatory
Support



Australian Government
Australian Skills Quality Authority

Session overview

- Australia's VET sector
- ASQA's regulatory activity
- 2017-18 year in review
- *ASQA Regulatory Strategy 2018-20* and the year ahead.



Australia's VET Sector

4.2 million students annually

Qualifications/skill sets delivered by >4450 providers

- 4016 ASQA regulated RTOs (approximately 89.9%)
- 450 VIC/WA regulated RTOs (approximately 10.1%)

Larger providers

- Top 30 providers represent >1m students, or 25% of all students
- Top 1100 providers (almost 25% of total providers) represent almost 90% of all students

Smaller providers

- Very large proportion of about 2000 providers (around 40% of total providers) with 100 or fewer students
- Approximately 3500 providers (approximately 75% of total providers) represent only 10% of all students

Source: Korbel, P & Misko J 2016, *VET provider market structures: history, growth and change*, NCVET, Adelaide

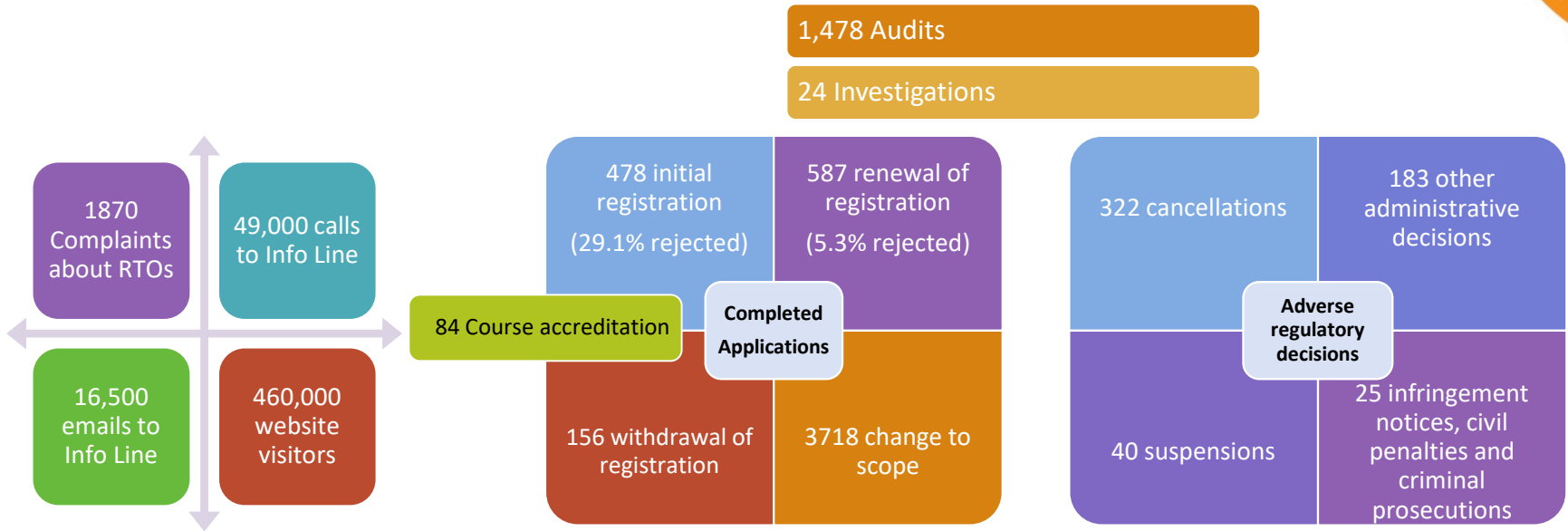
VET regulation

Community-based adult education RTOs

- ASQA regulates 181 community-based adult education providers (4.5% of all ASQA-regulated providers)
- In 2017, there were **109 264** enrolments with these providers across all states and territories (3% of total enrolments)
- Since ASQA's establishment in 2011, ASQA has conducted at least one audit activity in relation to 122 of these providers.

ASQA's regulatory activity

2017-18



* All figures approximate

2017-18 in review

A busy year!

- Review of NVR Act
- International Education Strategic Review
- Introduction of new fees and charges model
- Development of stronger controls on market entry (for full implementation in 2018-19)
- Completion of roll-out of student-centred audit approach
- Continuing close scrutiny of training and education qualifications
- Implementation of recommendations about unduly short training strategic review.

2017-18 in review

Review of NVR Act

- Review conducted by Professor Valerie Braithwaite with final report released on 22 June 2018
- 23 recommendations intended to drive continuous improvement in the quality of education and training and in the protection of students' rights
- Australian Government indicated its support for several of the review's recommendations
- ASQA will work with the Australian Government Department of Education and Training to progress those recommendations.

2017-18 in review

International Education Strategic Review

- Announced in 2017
- Review of issues including:
 - growth and associated risks
 - monitoring offshore markets
 - how providers manage third parties (agents)
 - coordination between agencies
 - data and information
 - how can ASQA support quality and testing risk indicators.

2017-18 in review

New fees and charges structure

- New fees implemented from July 2018
- Structure of fees and charges was revised to support providers that consistently demonstrate quality and compliance
- Incentives for compliance with most significant costs at the point of audit.

2017-18 in review

Enhanced scrutiny of new entrants

- Effective 1 July 2018
- Protecting both students and the market in which established providers operate
- Stronger financial viability requirements to ensure sustainable businesses
- Two-year initial registration period
- More disclosure on individuals associated with applicants
- 2018-19 focus is on identity verification and 'Fit and Proper Person' requirements.

2017-18 in review

Roll-out of student-centred audit approach

- Commenced in 2016-17
- Full implementation in 2017-18 including:
 - now applies to CRICOS providers
 - revised users' guide following the student journey
 - commencement of student surveys
 - new, streamlined audit report format.

2017-18 in review

Trainer and assessor capability

VET workforce capability directly affects the sector quality:

- from 2017 ASQA began applying increased scrutiny on all providers seeking to add TAE training products to scope
- ASQA has implemented a monitoring strategy for RTOs delivering TAE units of competency and qualifications
- ongoing focus on education to promote quality assessment practice (including through the updated *Users' Guide to the Standards for RTOs 2015* and discussion of common compliance issues with Standard 1.8).

2017-18 in review

Implementation of recommendations from unduly short training strategic review

- Recommendations designed to clarify the regulatory architecture, allow training product developers to set a recommended amount of training, and improve the information available to consumers
- Public consultations with VET stakeholders and discussion paper released with submissions closed 9 March 2018
- The Australian Government is yet to announce the outcome from this consultation process
- Unduly short training remains an ongoing risk; ASQA continues to focus on this in its audits of individual providers.

2018-19

The year ahead

ASQA's key priorities include:

- ASQA Regulatory Strategy 2018-20
 - target area 1: Australia's international education sector
 - target area 2: Trainer and assessor capability
 - strategic initiatives:
 - further work relating to the Government response to the NVR Act Review
 - implementation of 'Raising the Bar' project – new market entrants
 - increased regulatory scrutiny on four training products of concern.

Thank you

More information:

- Visit the ASQA website—www.asqa.gov.au
- Call the ASQA Info Line—1300 701 801
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