

ASQA activities, priorities and plans for the future

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Australian Government
Australian Skills Quality Authority



@asqagovau



Session overview

- Australia's VET sector
- ASQA's regulatory activity
- 2018-19 year in review
- *ASQA Regulatory Strategy 2019-21*
- The year ahead – expansion of ASQA's role



Australia's VET Sector

4.1 million students annually

Qualifications/skill sets delivered by
>4200 providers

- 3888 ASQA regulated RTOs (approximately 90.2% and including 80 ELICOS only providers)
- 413 VIC/WA regulated RTOs (approximately 9.8%)

Source: NCVER 2019, Australian vocational education and training statistics:
Total VET students and courses 2018 – data slicer, NCVER, Adelaide.

ASQA's regulatory activity

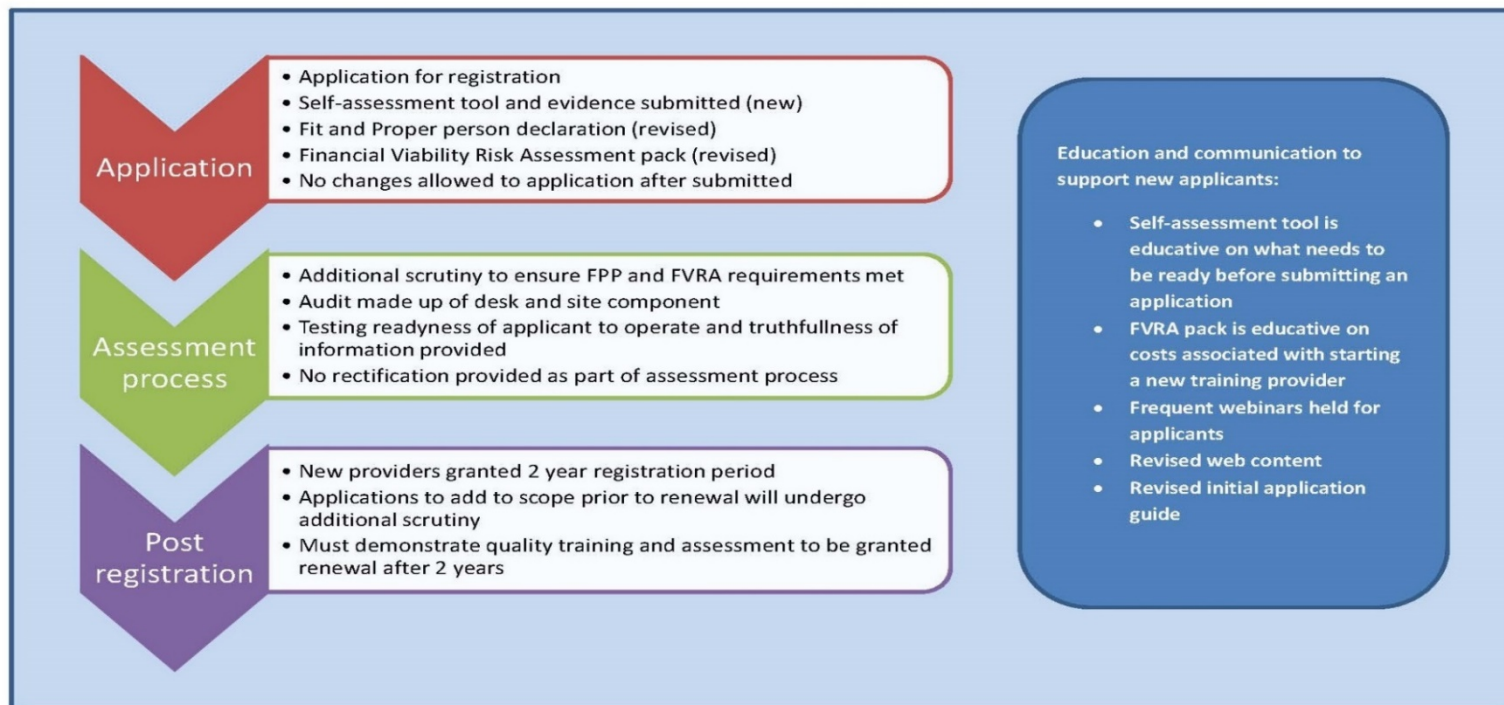
- ASQA regulates 160 community-based adult education providers
- In 2018, there were **102 485** program enrolments with these providers across all states and territories
- Overall, significant majority of providers are not triggering risk indicators or found to be compliant at audit.
- ASQA approves approximately 93% of applications

2018-19 in review

- ASQA raised the bar
- Recognising and supporting quality
- International Education Strategic Review
- *ASQA Regulatory strategy 2019-21*
- New guidance on third party arrangements

ASQA 'raised the bar'

From 1 July 2018, ASQA increased scrutiny on new providers entering the market



Recognising and supporting quality

Phase 1

- **benchmarking** national and international regulatory practice

Phase 2

- **consulting** on what action we might take to recognise and support quality

Findings

- support for risk-based regulation
- education and information valued
- more recognition and support of quality practices

Recognising and supporting quality

Key findings

Most common understanding of how ASQA recognises and supports quality

- ✓ ASQA focuses on areas that present the highest risks to the sector
- ✓ Quality providers are subject to less regulatory intervention and therefore lower costs
- ✓ Education products highly valued

International Education Strategic Review

(released July 2019)

Priority risk areas identified:

student growth

English language capabilities

student non-attendance

providers with shared operational arrangements, including education agents

Targeted regulatory strategy:

focus on CRICOS and ELICOS providers of interest

focus on priority risk areas

utilise PRISMS and other data and information sources

regulatory activities that are proportionate and agile



ASQA Regulatory Strategy 2019-21

- Released in August 2019
- Sets out the agency's priorities to 2021
- informed by ASQA's evidence-based approach to identifying and addressing systemic risks to the VET sector
- continued focus on
 - international education
 - trainer and assessor capability, and
- a new focus on VET in Schools
- identifies training products of concern
- identifies standards of concern

New guidance on third party arrangements

New guidance on third party arrangements came into effect from 1 September 2019 for new third party arrangements and will take effect on 1 January 2020 for existing arrangements.

- A new fact sheet sets out the practical implications for providers seeking to deliver training and assessment through third party arrangements
- A General Direction provides clarity and guidance on third party arrangements permitted under the *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011* with particular reference to the delivery of TAE products by third party arrangements requiring pre-approval by ASQA

The year ahead

- Reviews of Australia's VET sector
- Expansion to ASQA's role
- Review of ASQA
- Cost recovery consultation

Reviews of the VET sector

Recent VET reviews recommend an increase in ASQA's role to provide more education and work more closely with the VET sector.



Review of the VET sector

All eyes on quality – Prof Valerie Braithwaite

The NVR Act Review made 23 recommendations aimed at continuous **improvement in quality** and **protecting the rights of students**.

ASQA is working to promote a partnership approach to regulation focusing on:

- raising providers' awareness of opportunities for continuous performance improvement
- motivating providers to strive to meet compliance requirements
- providing pathways for providers to develop quality practice.

Review of the VET sector

Strengthening Skills – The Honourable Steven Joyce

Independent review conducted by the Honourable Steven Joyce includes recommendations across six areas

Strengthening
quality
assurance

Speeding up
qualification
development

Simpler
funding and
skills matching

Better careers
information

Clearer
secondary
school
pathways

Greater access
for
disadvantaged
Australians

Expansion of ASQA's role



Ministers' Media Centre
For the Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business

Michaelia Cash Steve Irons

Ministers announce changes to the Australian Skills Quality Authority

[Home](#) > [Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash](#) > [Ministers announce changes to the Australian Skills Quality Authority](#)

Friday 27 September 2019
Joint Media Release

Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash
Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business

The Hon Steve Irons MP
Assistant Minister for Vocational Education, Training and Apprenticeships

The Australian Government today announced reforms to the agency responsible for regulating the vocational education and training sector, the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA).

Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, said the reforms respond to key recommendations of the Braithwaite and Joyce Reviews, including supporting ASQA to expand its scope to adopt a more educative approach to lift quality in the delivery of vocational education and training (VET).

Review of ASQA – focus on training excellence

Includes new Government funding to enable:

- expanding ASQA's educative role to ensure training providers are aware of, and supported to, understand regulatory requirements
- improving ASQA's regulatory approach to support quality delivery of training
- ensuring audit decisions are transparent and training providers have the right information and support to deliver training best practice, and
- ensuring the national regulator has the data and feedback it needs to identify and remove poor quality providers.

Review of ASQA – focus on training excellence

Activities underway

- webinars
 - third party arrangements
 - change of ownership
 - cost recovery consultation
- new website release in 2020
- revision of Regulatory Risk Framework and Regulatory Principles
- review of publication of regulatory decisions on the ASQA website

Cost recovery

- From 1 July 2020, ASQA will begin operating as a full cost recovery agency
- Decision announced in the Australian Government Budget 2018-19
- Full cost recovery means an agency's activities are fully funded by fees and charges
- Consultation open for VET stakeholders until 9 December 2019

www.asqa.gov.au/costrecovery

Questions?



More information

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