

REGISTERED TRAINING ORGANISATIONS — REGULATIONS

526. Mr F.M. LOGAN to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development:

Before I ask the question, I would like to acknowledge that today is National TAFE Day and thank all the people who work within TAFE for the great work they do in the sector.

I refer to the Auditor General's report on the regulation of training organisations, and specifically that a check in 2013–14 of 323 registered training organisations found that 60 per cent were noncompliant with national standards.

- (1) Given the Training Accreditation Council is supposed to assess the competency and capacity of RTOs prior to their registration, how did 35 per cent of these organisations then be found to deliver training in a critically noncompliant manner?
- (2) As the report shows that RTOs passed students who gave incorrect answers to questions, did no practical testing of engineering students and employed trainers with no competence or industry experience, how can employers rely on the validity of these skills and qualifications?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Cockburn for his question.

- (1)–(2) I have been briefed on the Auditor General's report. I think it is important that we look at that report in context. It acknowledges that the Training Accreditation Council provides a level of compliance auditing and testing of our RTOs.

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cockburn!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: It did raise the issue of a high level of noncompliance within the sector. However, I think it is important that we also acknowledge that the Training Accreditation Council will often investigate registered training organisations in response to complaints of noncompliance. It may be that that is not necessarily reflective of the entire sector, but reflective of the work that the TAC does. I am not saying that it is not a problem; I am saying that it is an issue.

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cockburn.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: As with all the Auditor General's reports, the TAC has acknowledged and accepted that it will deal with the Auditor General's recommendations. Indeed, some of those recommendations have already been dealt with. One of the criticisms in the report was the time frame to basically censure noncompliance against RTOs. The time frame is actually beyond the control of the TAC; what the TAC needs to comply with is set in federal legislation and regulations. There has been some movement in that area and some of those issues have been addressed. We have accepted that we will respond to the recommendations. Obviously, the report was handed down today, and we will do an update as we get to those recommendations in due course.