

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: Inquiry into the delivery of the Vocational Education and Training in Schools (VETiS) program - Contribution from Australian Training Management

Importance: High

From: Alan Gregory

Sent: Wednesday, 2 August 2017 1:23 PM

To: Committee, Education & Health Standing <laehsc@parliament.wa.gov.au>

Subject: Inquiry into the delivery of the Vocational Education and Training in Schools (VETiS) program - Contribution from Australian Training Management

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Dear Committee Members,

Australian Training Management is a long standing Registered Training Organisation (RTO) who has served Western Australian training sector across a range of industries for almost 3 decades, is regulated by the Australian Skills Quality Authority, and seeks to develop learners and businesses, whilst promoting a safer working environment in the industries we serve. In 2017, Australian Training Management partnered with the Ertech Construction Academy to offer a Certificate II in Civil Construction to VETiS students, particularly focussing on indigenous and dis-engaged students. This particular VETiS program is being delivered at the Motivation Training Centre, West Swan, where we also have a second (smaller) training centre.

In viewing the 'Call for Submissions' on this topic, it is worth sharing some feedback that Australian Training Management has received from both students and parents / caregivers of those students on the program. I hope you also do not mind hearing about some of our thoughts on the topic, based on what we have experienced previously and during the delivery of this program.

1. How well the program is meeting the needs of schools, students and industry

The Certificate II in Civil Construction program we deliver has met with such positive feedback from both students and parents alike. The students inform us that they value the one day per week they are engaged on the program hugely, as they are involved in activities that holds their interest, it develops their practical skills and interpersonal skills. Students also comment that they view the program as an opportunity to learn from established industry experts, where they can glean valuable and life-long practical skills that prepare them for future employment, and also for use in their own daily lives. Parents are delighted with the program we deliver, as they have watched their child grow in confidence, develop new 'job-ready' skills and knowledge that should enable them to successfully gain employment once they complete the program. More importantly, parents have informed us that had their child not participated in the qualification and VETiS program, their child would likely have already left school and let's say, chosen a less productive pathway in life. Students provide the same commentary on this regularly also. The parents we received feedback from are extremely proud that their child is participating and they have thanked Australian Training Management training staff for promoting the need to remain in school to their children, as of course, remaining in school is essential to remaining on the VETiS program.

As a long-standing provider of quality focussed occupational training courses in Western Australia, we are acutely aware that local and National industry requires a functionally competent, effective and safety oriented workforce. Our industry partners and client employers inform us regularly that the production of a 'job-ready' employee is critical to their efficient operations, especially when seeking to recruit during adverse economic conditions. The VETiS program is clearly an enabling scheme that achieves this outcome, albeit focussed at the lower end of the experience spectrum. The VETiS program meets the occupational needs of current and future industry requirements in terms of delivering employment agile and occupationally competent potential employees.

2. Challenges for regional and remote areas

Australian Training Management delivers qualifications and short training courses Nationally, and fairly regularly to remote areas. Unfortunately, we have no experience of delivering our VETiS program regionally, or within remote areas. That's said, our greatest challenge when offering qualifications and programs to regional or remotely located clients is being able to offer that qualification or service at a competitive rate; mainly due to the cost incurred when travelling to and from site. Service delivery costs greatly do and would restrict the cost effective delivery of valuable programs to schools, employers and individuals who wish to update their occupational skills and knowledge, and often to remain compliant with ever changing industry needs and Standards. Additionally, the always inflated costs of equipment and/or venue hire, accommodation and food increase the costs to training organisations; which when those costs are transmitted to potential clients, this unfortunately reduces the appetite to receive or deliver such programs.

3. Registration and ongoing monitoring of training organisations

It is critically important to regulate effectively and to monitor the effective and efficient delivery of training by any organisation. One of the most important factors that is inherent within all of our training programs is safety. To that end, we have long-established Service Agreements with a wide variety of Government Departments, such as The Department of Training & Workforce Development, the Department of Transport, WorkSafe WA, MainRoads WA and the Construction Training Fund. These Service Agreements enable the delivery of training outcomes that align and meet required industry Standards, whilst developing a sustainable workforce for the region and country. That said, this year, we have noticed a sizeable leap in regulatory beaurocracy that actually discourages quality focussed private training providers from engaging with those Governmental Departments to offer services such as Traineeships, Apprenticeships and VETiS programs. This comment is based on the application processes, documentary requirements and labour intense reporting programs and processes, and on some occasions, power crazy and simply unhelpful staff and case managers.

Despite the above commentary, robust program monitoring is viewed by Australian Training Management as a positive process by which the Government encourages and ensures program compliance from engaged organisations. Our current view is that care needs to be taken in order not to discourage educational establishments further from participating in such programs, and endeavour to reduce the unnecessary beaurocracy that restricts funding, participation, delivery and compliance. Australian Training management is currently engaged on this and other programs because we are part indigenous owned, and our Board of Directors all have a strong desire to offer opportunities to, engage with and empower the youth of today, who will become the workforce and leadership of tomorrow; especially for those who are of indigenous descent or are disadvantaged.

4. Resourcing of the program

Australian Training Management has collaborated with the Ertech Construction Academy in the delivery of the Certificate II in Civil Construction VETiS program on a fee for service basis, as unfortunately, no Government funding was or is available to students or parents on this years' cohort. This has made program marketing and participation difficult for students and parents who perhaps do not have available funds to enter the program. It defies our logic that the program was only opened to Government training organisations (who were able to access funding) and that highly skilled and industry experienced privately owned training organisations were excluded from entering the program. Access now is limited albeit not impossible, however again, it is beaurocratically intense to apply for and gain approval to access and deliver such programs.

As a privately owned RTO who has to date been unable to access the VETiS program due to entry restrictions, this has been and is extremely frustrating, despite our overwhelming desire to engage with young learners and to upskill the next generation of workforce, which we feel we can do so well.

The Government's desire encourage young Teachers to gain vocational qualifications, such as the Certificate IV in Training & Assessment is positive; it is essential that Teachers have a good awareness of both the academic and vocational routes to success for students. VETiS Coordinators in my experience

do a good job also, and their encouragement to get out and visit training providers who deliver VETiS programs should be further encouraged.

I do hope that you receive our feedback as a positive contribution to the Government's VETiS program, which we view as an excellent one. The means by which the program can inspire and engage students is such a positive life-long influencer, for students, families and industry alike. In order to achieve greater and sustained success, greater investment is required, administrative processes need to be refined in order to encourage participation, access to this and future programs needs to be improved (but still regulated robustly), particularly where there are identified skills shortages and needs for specific industries.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute towards the inquiry into the delivery of the VETiS program.

Kind Regards,

Alan Gregory

CEO & RTO Manager



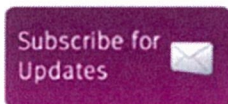
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