Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations

ASQA regulatory action - cancelling qualifications

General Factsheet – ASQA cancellation process

What action has been taken?

The Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) is undertaking serious regulatory action in respect to a number of Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), following a series of compliance investigations.

To ensure the integrity of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector and to protect the public, ASQA is progressing regulatory actions to cancel the registration of some providers. Where these providers are found to have issued qualifications without the appropriate training or assessment ASQA is pursuing regulatory action to cancel the qualification or statements of attainment.

The department, ASQA, other government agencies and relevant regulators are working through the potential impact on students and affected workplaces.

More information will be made available as the situation progresses.

ASQA will be regularly updating information at: www.asqa.gov.au

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) will be regularly updating information at: <u>DEWR website</u>

Frequently Asked Questions for employers and the general public are available here: Frequently Asked Questions.

ASQA cancellation process

There is a sequence of regulatory actions that ASQA must follow to remove providers from the VET sector and to cancel qualifications which should not have been issued.

Cancellation of RTO registration

ASQA undertakes a rigorous and comprehensive investigation into an RTO's practices and completes a robust assessment process before making the decision to cancel its registration.

Once ASQA makes a decision to cancel the registration of the RTO this decision takes effect 24 hours from the RTO being notified.

Notice of Intent to Cancel Qualifications

Where ASQA decides to pursue the cancellation of qualifications, ASQA issues Notices of Intent (NOI) to cancel qualification(s) and/or statements of attainment(s) to former students. The notice of intent to cancel does not automatically result in a cancelled qualification.

Former students have the opportunity to submit a response (that may include supporting evidence). The response must be submitted within the time period as advised by ASQA in the NOI.

If the former student submits a response within the timeframe, ASQA must consider the response when making a decision whether to cancel the qualification or not.

Notice of Decision to Cancel Qualifications

Where ASQA decides to cancel a qualification or statement of attainment, ASQA issues a Notice of Decision of Cancel to former students. The cancellation takes effect either 7 days or 30 days after the Notice has been sent, depending on the circumstances.

Opportunity for Review

Decisions to cancel qualifications and/or statements of attainment are reviewable. Former students may apply to the Administrative Review Tribunal (ART) for review of ASQA's decision. Applications must be made to the ART within 28 days after the decision is issued.

Returning the qualification

If ASQA cancels a qualification or statement of attainment, the former student must return the qualification or statement of attainment to ASQA.

Advice to the Office of the Student Identifiers Registrar

On cancellation of the qualifications and statements of attainment ASQA will advise the Office of the Student Identifiers Registrar. The Office of the Student Identifiers Registrar manages the online record of your VET enrolments and achievements linked to your Unique Student Identifier (USI).

The Office of the Student Identifiers Registrar will need to make a decision to remove the cancelled qualifications and statements of attainments from the relevant USI records.