

ITECA Media Release

ASQA's New Stakeholder Committee Has Its Work Cut Out Restoring Trust

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For Immediate Release

As the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) attempts to overcome perceptions that it is disengaged, the formation of the new ASQA Stakeholder Liaison Group is welcome. That's the view of the Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia (ITECA), the peak body representing independent providers in the higher education, vocational education, training and skills sector.

"Report after report has highlighted the widespread disquiet that exists between ASQA and the vocational education and training sector. ITECA is therefore pleased to see the formation of this new consultative mechanism. Hopefully, it will serve to strengthen links between the regulator and independent vocational education and training providers," said Troy Williams, ITECA Chief Executive.

The formation of the ASQA Stakeholder Liaison Group follows a recent review of the regulator that established there is currently a significant trust deficit between the regulator, peak bodies and some Registered Training Organisations (RTOs).

"It would be a fair criticism to say that ASQA has been disengaged with the vocational education and training sector. That this has been recognised, and steps taken to address this disengagement, is welcomed," Mr Williams said.

According to ITECA, a trusted regulator is pivotal to the work of independent RTOs that support more than 80% of the 4.1 million students in vocational education and training across the nation.

"Although much has been done in recent months to improve ASQA's engagement with independent providers, on a weekly basis ITECA continues to receive complaints about the regulator's mismanagement of compliance activity. It's hoped that this new engagement mechanism helps highlight areas where ASQA can improve its performance," Mr Williams said.

Around half of the appointees to the seventeen person ASQA Stakeholder Liaison Group are employees of ITECA members, recognised for their commitment to delivering students and their employees with the outcomes they are looking for.

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Media Contact:
ITECA Communications Director
e: media@iteca.edu.au m: 0436 522 189
[ITECA Ref: NN9.2.3]