



**THE HON IAN MACFARLANE MP**

**MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY**

PO BOX 6022  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**19 DEC 2014**

MC14-005052

Ms Tricia Blombery  
Convener Standing Committee for Education  
Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc  
PO Box 90  
NEDLANDS WA 6009

Dear Ms Blombery *Tricia*

Thank you for your letter of 27 November 2014 concerning the quality of training in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector and the role of the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA).

I too am concerned about quality in the VET sector and have established a VET Reform programme to address this and other matters in the sector. The Australian Government is also committing \$68 million over four years to transform ASQA's regulatory model, increase its education functions and better target its activities to the circumstances of the individual provider. The new model will enable ASQA to improve education and support for training providers and reward high performers with greater autonomy and flexibility, while focusing more regulatory effort on dealing with rogue operators.

An important part of ASQA's role as the national regulator is to conduct audits as part of maintaining and enforcing standards. The majority of registered training organisations are found to be compliant with the standards at the completion of the audit process. For those that are still found to be non-compliant, regulatory decisions by ASQA are routinely published on their website and can be located at [www.asqa.gov.au/about/regulatory-decisions/asqa-decisions.html](http://www.asqa.gov.au/about/regulatory-decisions/asqa-decisions.html).

In response to your concerns about the use of inducements, I am aware of these types of behaviours that pervert training outcomes for the purposes of extracting high profit from students and/or government funding programmes. The Government is committed to curbing any such misbehaviour through a number of measures including strengthening the standards for registered providers and assessing legislative options to curb inappropriate behaviour.

There is a lot of work being undertaken at the present time in regards to reforming the VET system and I invite the Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc to contribute through a number of mechanisms established to facilitate this process. These include:

- the Government's VET Reform programme through the VET Reform website available at [www.vetreform.industry.gov.au](http://www.vetreform.industry.gov.au), where the Federation can also join the VET Reform LinkedIn Group and register to receive VET Reform updates;

Phone: (02) 6277 7070 Fax: (02) 6273 3662

- the future direction for the Industry Skills Council and **training** packages, which is being canvassed through two discussion papers. Further information, as well as the ability to make submissions, can be found at [www.vetreform.industry.gov.au/news/training-packages-discussion-papers](http://www.vetreform.industry.gov.au/news/training-packages-discussion-papers); and
- the recently established Senate Inquiry into the Operation, Regulation and Funding of Private VET Providers in Australia which will canvass many of your Federation's concerns. More information on the Inquiry, including how to make a submission, can be found at [www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Education and Employment/vocational](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Education_and_Employment/vocational)

Thank you for bringing your Federation's concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Macfarlane', written in a cursive style.

Ian Macfarlane