

# Validation of assessment

## MINTRAC National Training Conference

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26 March 2015



Australian Government

Australian Skills Quality Authority

# Who is ASQA?

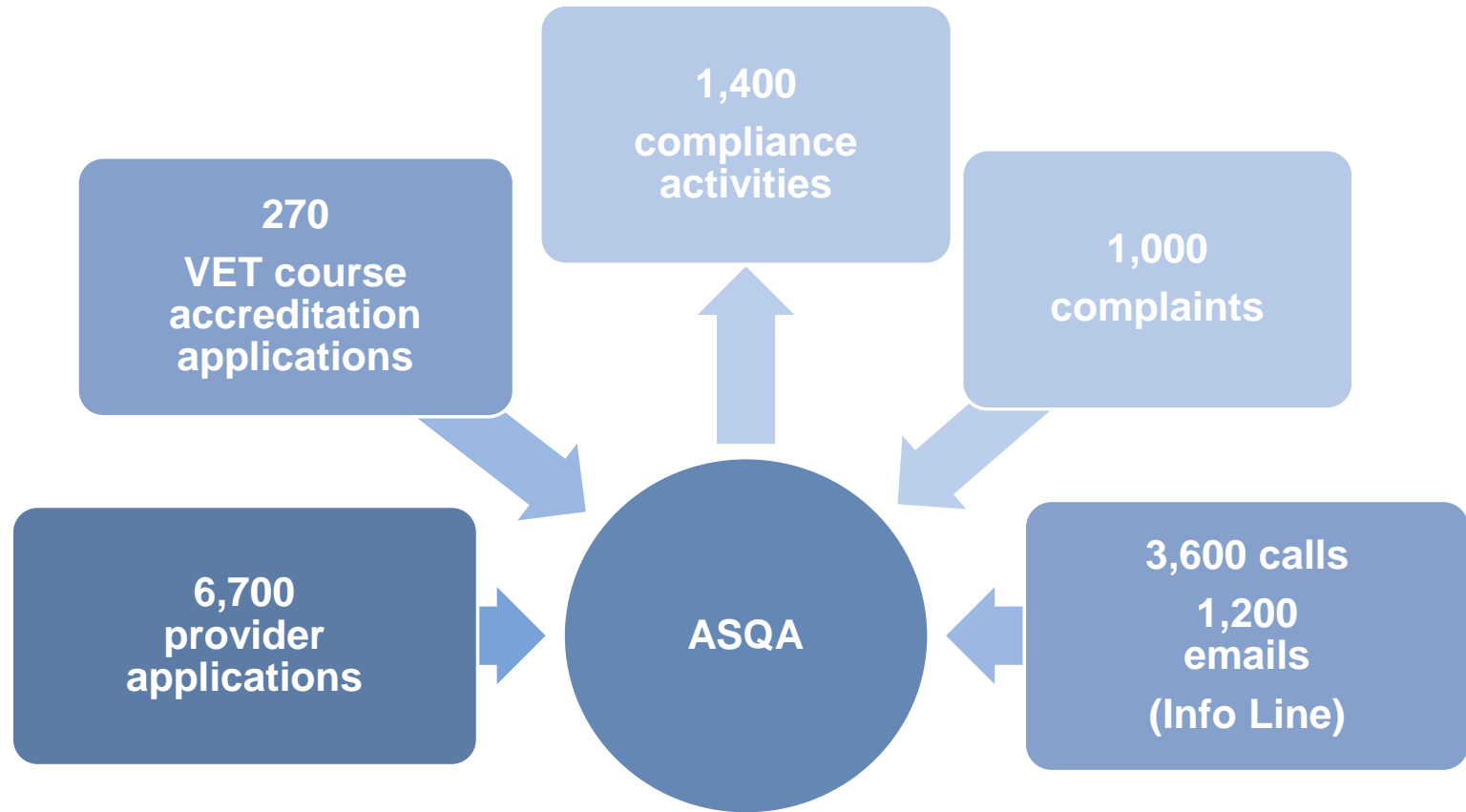
- The national regulator for the vocational education and training (VET) sector, regulating:
  - vocational education and training providers
  - accredited vocational education and training courses
  - CRICOS providers, including those delivering ELICOS



Commonwealth Register of Institutions and  
Courses for Overseas Students

English Language Intensive Courses for  
Overseas Students

## ASQA annual activity \*



\*all figures are approximate

# Three years of national VET regulation - conclusions

- Three distinct groups have emerged in the Australian VET sector:
  - high quality providers who fully comply with the required standards (around 20%)
  - providers that want to comply with the standards but experience some difficulties (around 60%)
  - providers that do not provide quality training and are **unwilling** and/or **unable** to comply with the required standards (around 20%)





# Three years of national VET regulation - conclusions

- Most providers – around 80% – are experiencing some difficulties with conducting assessment properly
- Other hot spots:
  - Course duration
  - Marketing
  - Third party arrangements, including brokers



## Next steps

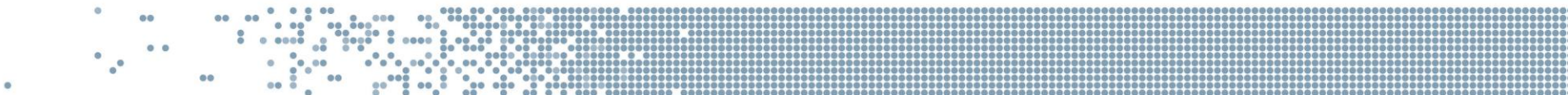
- To date the main regulatory trigger has been an application
  - 90% triggered by an application
  - 80% of audits have at least one non-compliance at time of audit
  - 23% of audits remain not compliant after rectification
  - Compliance activities not triggered by applications have led to the cancellation or suspension of 130 existing RTOs
- ASQA's forward regulatory strategies focus less on applications and more on proactive regulation



# Regulatory change



- NVR Act (awaiting Royal Assent)
  - Some streamlining of processes
  - Extension of RTO registration to up to seven years
  - Minister can set mandatory 'quality standards'
  - **All** advertising or representation of nationally recognised training **must** include the RTO code and name, without exception



# Regulatory change



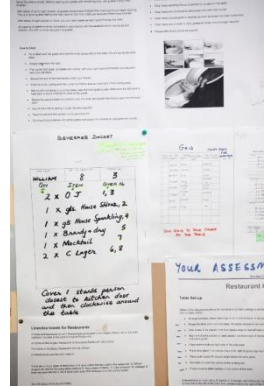
- Standards for RTOs
  - New requirements relating to amount of training
  - Clarification and strengthening of assessment requirements
  - Strengthening of assessment validation
  - Stronger qualification requirements for trainers/assessors
  - Stronger complaint handling requirements, including external review
  - Clearer fee protection requirements
  - Stronger requirements around 'third party' arrangements



[illegible]

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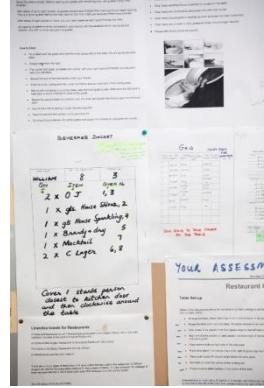
# Validation of assessment ...



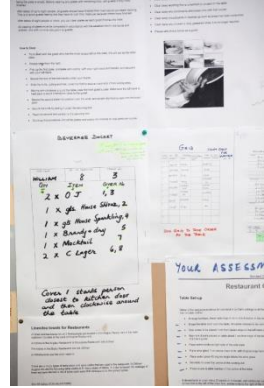
- “The RTO implements a plan for ongoing systematic validation of assessment practices and judgements that includes for each training product on the RTO’s scope of registration:
  - a) when assessment validation will occur
  - b) which training products will be the focus of the validation
  - c) who will lead and participate in validation activities
  - d) how the outcomes of these activities will be documented and acted upon...

# Validation of assessment ...

- ...each training product is validated at least once every five years, with at least 50% of products validated within the first three years of each five year cycle, taking into account the relative risks of all of the training products on the RTO's scope of registration, including those risks identified by the VET Regulator ...



# Validation of assessment ...



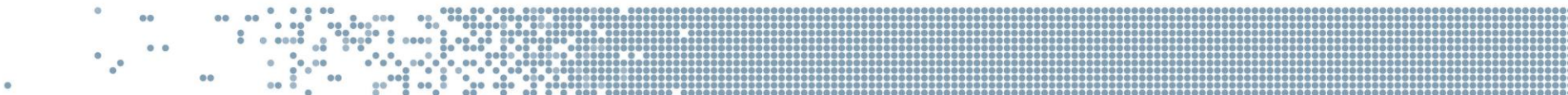
- ... by one or more persons who are not directly involved in the particular instance of delivery and assessment of the training product being validated, and who collectively have:
  - a) vocational competencies and current industry skills relevant to the assessment being validated
  - b) current knowledge and skills in vocational teaching and learning
  - c) the training and assessment qualification or assessor skill set”



# What does this mean for RTOs?



- Develop a plan
  - When validation will occur
  - Who will conduct validation
  - Which training products will be included (and when)
  - How the outcomes will be used to inform future practice
- Implement the plan



# Developing a plan for validation



- When validation will occur
  - All RTO scope must be covered over five years
  - 50% of scope must be covered in first three years
    - ‘Training product’ = item explicitly on scope
  - Five year cycle is at the discretion of the RTO, but a plan must be in place by 1 April 2015 (commencement date of new standards)

# Developing a plan for validation ...

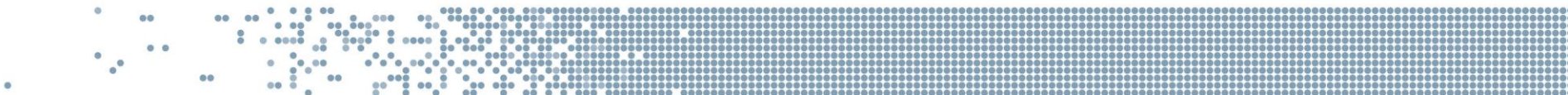


- Who will conduct validation
  - Certain products from TAE must undergo external and independent validation
  - In simple terms, people conducting validation must be qualified to assess the training product, but a 'team' approach may be used
  - Trainers/assessors may participate in validation, but must not make decisions on validation of their own assessment judgements

## Developing a plan for validation ...



- Which training products will be validated (and when)
  - Consider the risk associated with each training product, which can take many forms
  - Industry consultation may identify specific risks
  - ASQA may identify (and publish) specific risks – if so, these must be taken into account
  - Consider life cycle of product and amount of delivery

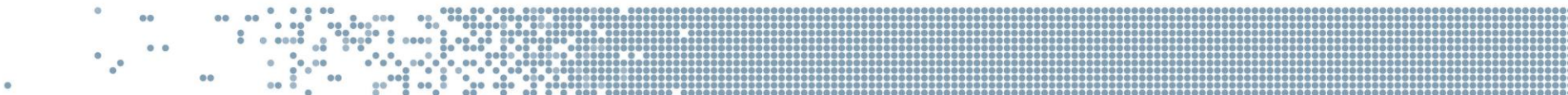




## Developing a plan for validation ...



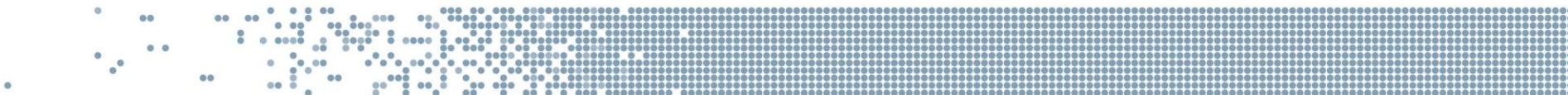
- How outcomes will be used to inform future practice
  - Outcomes of validation activities (in addition to other data) must be used to “improve the RTO’s training and assessment strategies and practices” (Clause 2.2)
  - The plan must identify how the outcomes will contribute to improvement



# Sampling approach to validation



- You are not required to validate every assessment judgement
- A valid sampling approach, including the use of random samples, allows a reasonable inference to be made that assessment judgements have been valid overall
- While every training product must be validated, selecting a sample of units from each qualification or skill set is appropriate
- Consider what needs to occur if outcomes of validation are negative
  - is a further sample needed?



## Sampling approach to validation ...



- What assessment judgements should be included in the validation sample?
  - ASQA's General Direction on retention of assessment records requires that completed assessments be retained for six months
  - You are not expected to include in validation activities records that you are not required to retain

## Where can I find out more?



- ASQA has developed a Users' Guide to the new *Standards for RTOs 2015*
- A fact sheet with extended information is under development
- A specialised 'validation sample size generator' is under development and will be released with the above fact sheet
- Contact ASQA
  - [www.asqa.gov.au](http://www.asqa.gov.au)
  - [enquiries@asqa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@asqa.gov.au)
  - 1300-701 801



# Where can I find out more?

- Ask a question now!

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