The national regulatory journey so far

- 16.5% or 112 applications to set up a new RTO refused
- 6.8% or 113 applications to renew an existing RTO’s registration refused
  - still too high
- 2.2% of change of scope applications refused

- To date the main regulatory trigger has been an application
- Of 3,200+ audits completed by ASQA
  - only 10% have not been triggered directly or indirectly by the assessment of an application
The national regulatory journey so far

- Targeted (non-application based) regulation has led to the cancellation or suspension of the registration of a further 130 existing RTOs
- Even though only 10% of total audit activity to date not applications based

- Focus in the first three years on
  - processing applications from RTOs
  - evolving risk-based regulatory approach to identify poor quality providers
  - establishing higher entry bar for new entrants
The national regulatory journey so far

- Most RTOs are not compliant at the initial audit
  - only 20% fully compliant
  - 80% have at least one non-compliance
- Most RTOs are able to achieve compliance after 20 days rectification
  - 77% fully compliant after rectification
  - 23% still not compliant
Conclusions from the first three years of national VET regulation

Three distinct groups have emerged in the Australian VET sector:

- high quality providers who fully comply with the required National Standards (around 20% of providers)
- providers who want to comply with the National Standards but who experience some difficulties, at least at initial audit (around 60% of providers)
- providers who do not provide quality training and are unwilling or unable to comply with the National Standards (around 20% of providers)
Conclusions from the first three years of national VET regulation

• Most providers – some 80% – are experiencing some difficulties with doing assessment properly

• Around one-third of providers appear to be offering courses that are too short to enable sufficient quality delivery to ensure quality skills are obtained

• The transactions-based regulatory approach is too slow a way to focus adequately on poor quality providers
Rethinking the VET regulatory approach

A new regulatory approach

- lower regulatory burden on high quality, fully compliant providers
- provide more support to providers who are trying to do the right thing but have some difficulties in fully meeting the National Standards
- even more rigorous regulation of the minority who are seriously non-compliant, poor quality providers
- moving the regulatory trigger from applications to better identifying and managing risk
Reducing the regulatory burden and cost

- ASQA has argued for national VET standards to be focussed on the quality of training and assessment and student protection, not on other additional regulation that does not apply to other businesses.
- Automatic upgrades of equivalent training package qualifications without applications and payment of fees to ASQA (announced by the Minister is early June 2014)
- Ceasing financial viability assessments as a requirement for re-registering existing RTOs from 1 July 2014
- Further measures to reduce regulatory burden and cost for higher quality providers are under consideration.
Supporting RTOs to understand and meet national standards

- ASQA has argued for clearer, less ambiguous standards to help RTOs understand what is required/to reduce variations in auditor interpretation
- Already revised ASQA Info line procedures to give callers a specific ASQA contact and access to auditors for specific enquiries
- Rebranding the ASQA website from 1 July 2014 to provide:
  - a new, single Help Centre including video centre to help RTOs better understand their regulatory requirements
  - more information about overseas students requirements
  - enhanced functionality and search capabilities
Supporting RTOs to understand and meet national standards

- Comprehensive information about the new National Standards
  - an ASQA users guide to the new National Standards
  - Questions and Answers about the new standards
  - new ASQA videos and webinars
- A series of 28 face-to-face information sessions to be held across Australia about what the new standards mean and how ASQA will regulate them
ASQA information sessions

The new standards and how ASQA will regulate them

Proposed national program of 28 sessions throughout November 2014:

- NSW (Sydney, Dubbo, Wollongong, Coffs Harbour) – 7 sessions
- Qld (Brisbane, Gold Coast, Cairns) – 6 sessions
- Vic (Melbourne, Bendigo) – 4 sessions
- SA (Adelaide, Mt Gambier) – 3 sessions
- Tas (Hobart, Launceston, Devonport) – 3 sessions
- NT (Darwin, Alice Springs) – 2 sessions
- WA (Perth) – 2 sessions
- ACT (Canberra) - 1 session
How to contact ASQA

- ASQA website – asqa.gov.au
- Call the ASQA Info line – 1300 701 801
- Email to – enquiries@asqa.gov.au
- Subscribe to the ASQA Update
- Online applications and payment of fees – ASQAnet