



Parliament of South Australia  
QUESTION TIME  
6 February 2020

FRANCES BEDFORD MP JP *Member for Florey*

**TAFE SA**

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (15:01):** My question is to the Minister for Education. In light of TAFE's reaccreditation for a further seven years, how do you respond to complaints I have received from those involved in the sector—that is, nursing home owners, residents and onsite workers—alleging classroom and practical requirements, particularly for the Certificate III in Individual Support are not adequate and do not prepare students to work in residential aged care?

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:02):** I thank the member for the question. Obviously she has identified the reaccreditation by the national regulator, which took place last year for seven years. They did that having had three audits in three years. They looked at 16 areas in 2017, again in 2018 and then for the reaccreditation audit in 2019. ASQA, the national regulator, determined which areas they were going to audit to determine that TAFE's offering was in line with the national training package and made their determination.

The member has identified concerns that she has been made aware of by people in relation to a particular field of study. I am not sure whether that was one of the ones that ASQA looked at last year or not. I will make inquiries and I will take the entirety of the member's question on notice and bring back an answer to the house and for the member.

**The SPEAKER:** Supplementary, then the member for Lee.

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (15:03):** Minister, what guarantees can you give that students actually complete courses and that lecturers

are qualified and fully able to teach course content?

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:03):** I thank the member for the question. Obviously the organisation undertook an enormous body of work throughout 2018, in particular, and in 2019 leading up to the audit. That was focused on ensuring that the package itself and the assessment, in particular, of all those courses because TAFE doesn't know which courses ASQA is going to order ahead of the audit. So TAFE's improvement package was right across the board and intended to hit every single offering that TAFE was doing, and it was ensuring that the assessments and the training offering were indeed up to scratch, and so ASQA found it to be.

Part of that clearly is ensuring that all the TAFE lecturers are appropriate in their field, up to the relevant training standard and, indeed, also compliant with the new TAE requirements to ensure that they are appropriate people to be offering that training. That is what we expect of TAFE, that is what the national regulator expects of TAFE and, in the courses that they assessed, found TAFE to be compliant with. I have great confidence in the TAFE board—the new TAFE board, I should be clear, that has been appointed since the election—n their oversight of the organisation. I have already taken the first question on notice and, when I bring back an answer to that question, if there are any particular comments to make in relation to the second question I will include them in that first answer.



**FRANCES BEDFORD MP JP**

*Member for Florey*

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