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TAFE sector welcomes government crackdown on poor quality child care training

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA), which represents the public TAFE network, has welcomed the federal government’s decision to impose more rigorous oversight of child care training providers.

TDA Acting CEO, Malcolm White said that he welcomed measures announced today to shine a light on poor quality child care training that has been uncovered by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) in its report Training for Early Childhood Education and Care in Australia.

“Quality child care training has such profound community-wide impacts and is too important to be compromised by poor quality training providers who do not meet required standards.

“Students who undertake some of these courses are being deceived into believing they have appropriate qualifications that will see them secure a job in the child care sector.

“What we have learned is that some training providers are taking short cuts and leaving ‘graduates’ ill-equipped for work or, worse, effectively ‘blackbanned’ because of their training provider’s poor reputation in the industry.”

The crackdown on child care training providers was announced today by the Assistant Minister for Education and Training Senator Simon Birmingham.

It will entail more widespread audits of child care training organisations, more on-the-job training, greater use of penalties and infringement notices, and a ‘preferred provider’ scheme.

“We particularly welcome Minister Birmingham’s direction to ASQA that it use the full extent of its powers and penalties in dealing with the quality concerns raised in the report,” Mr White said.

“We applaud the Minister’s initiative and determination to ensure that child care training is of a standard that leads to approved qualifications, job opportunities, and community confidence in the child care sector,” Mr White said.

For further information

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