



REIA SUBMISSION TO THE ASQA DISCUSSION PAPER ON TRAINING PRODUCT REFORM

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PREPARED BY

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The Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) is the peak national association for the real estate profession in Australia.

The REIA's members are the State and Territory Real Estate Institutes, through which around 75 per cent of real estate agencies are collectively represented. The 2011 Census records the Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services Industry employment sitting at a total of 117,880. By occupation the key data recorded by ABS Census were 64,699 business brokers, property managers, principals, real estate agents and representatives.

The REIA represents an important element of the broader property and construction sector which together makes a significant contribution to Australia's social climate and economic development. Property contributes \$300 billion annually in economic activity.

Importantly, REIA represents an integral element of the small business sector. Some 99 per cent of real estate agencies are small businesses and 11 per cent of all small businesses in Australia are involved in real estate.

REIA is committed to providing and assisting research and well-informed advice to the Federal Government, Opposition, professional members of the real estate sector, media and the public on a range of issues affecting the property market.

The REIA welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the ASQA Discussion Paper on Training Product Reform.

Introduction

ASQA has sought a response to a series of questions under a number of broad subject areas.

REIA's response under a number of these broad subject areas is similarly broad. As specifics emerge REIA welcomes the opportunity to be involved in any ensuing consultations.

Training Product Reform – Technical Skills

Whilst in principle supportive of a greater focus and use of knowledge, particularly for some specific purposes, REIA believes that care must be taken in keeping a balance or proportionality to ensure that there is no movement away from the required competency.

Common Units of Competency

Whilst REIA sees some merit in having Common Units it also sees some potential problems in the ongoing management.

A particular problem is the ownership and responsibility of common units which could be barriers to wider usage. Users may not always be aware of any updates/changes by the “owners”. This raises the issue of responsibility and associated costs of any mechanism to address this.

Accredited Courses

REIA strongly believes that an accredited course should only exist if there is an identifiable need for that particular training that cannot and will not be able to be met in a training package due to either the work/ tasks being niche or specialized or targeting a specific micro group of people. If the skills and tasks being proposed in an accredited course are of a broad industry application or it has been identified that there is use for them by the broader sector or industry they should then be incorporated into the appropriate training package.

In addition, unlike training packages, accredited courses don't always get reviewed.