

15/04/2011

Productivity Commission
(Review of Vocational Education and Training Workforce)
Locked Bag 2, Collins St East
Melbourne VIC 8003, Australia

Dear Sirs/Ms,

We understand that IBSA has recommended to the Commission that specific consideration be given to making the Diploma of Vocational Education and Training a mandatory prerequisite to deliver Certificate IV in Training and Assessment training.

By making that recommendation, IBSA is suggesting that for teaching that Certificate IV, a trainer should have a higher qualification than the same level of qualification being taught. This flies in the face of past practice and smacks of elitism by the TAFEs.

Cleverly Victorian Tafe's have the Diploma VET written into the Work Place Agreements and would therefore be in a position to once again monopolies a market for no good community reason. The furphy of "quality" should be immediately dispensed. This is used by Government Tafe's to hide behind much too often. In fact the Commission should confidentially interview past and present Quality Auditors. Many will tell you if they audit Government Tafe's the same as private providers they soon are given other assignments.

Also no consideration is given to equivalent or higher qualifications such as Diploma of Training & Assessment, Masters Training and Assessment etc.

We note from the Draft Report that the Commission found that many VET trainers do not hold Certificate IV in Training and Education or its equivalent and that as few as 8% of non-TAFE sector held some type of teaching qualification. We are concerned about this situation, and are currently in the process of finalising our Certificate IV in Training and Assessment course so that we may play our part in resolving the problem. However, given that only a small proportion of trainers are currently thought to have a Certificate IV in Training and Education and even fewer have a Diploma in that field, any move to restrict the ability of the non-TAFE to deliver Certificate IV training will only exacerbate the problem. This will no doubt force up the cost of Certificate IV training and cause training bottlenecks to develop in many industries that are already short of trainers.

We note the concern about the quality of Certificate IV in Training and Education training, and suggest that authorities would be better off stepping up their audit (genuine and fair) program and undertaking post training assessments of trainees rather than strangling the supply in the manner being suggested by IBSA.

Yours sincerely,

Rohan Cresp
CEO
IAScend Tafe Pty Ltd