



Regulation Report

1 July to 30 September 2025¹

Our purpose

As the national regulator of Australia's vocational education and training (VET) sector, our purpose is to ensure quality VET so that students, industry, governments, and the community have confidence in the integrity of national qualifications issued by training providers.

Each year, more than 20 percent of the Australian population undertake a VET course.

ASQA exists to:

Register, monitor, educate and empower the vast majority of providers who are committed and capable of delivering quality VET.

Remove those who are not.

So that:

- students are protected from harm and receive quality training
- there is a reliable flow of critical skills into the workforce
- the reputation of our VET sector is safeguarded
- the Australian economy thrives.

¹ Data gets updated over time and ASQA continuously refines its methods for calculating figures to be as accurate as possible. As a result, historically reported numbers may not be consistent when compared to current reported figures.

We regulate providers that deliver:



VET qualifications and courses to students in Australia or offer Australian qualifications internationally.



VET courses to overseas students – approved on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) to teach overseas students on student visas in Australia.



English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) – approved on the CRICOS.

We also accredit courses that may be offered by training providers.

We are a best-practice regulator which:

- adopts a whole-of-system perspective to build sector performance, capability and culture
- focuses on areas where the risk is greatest, using data and intelligence to guide our activity
- takes a collaborative approach to engagement and communication with all stakeholders.

Our regulatory approach is underpinned by our [Regulatory Operating Model](#) and [Regulatory Risk Framework](#).

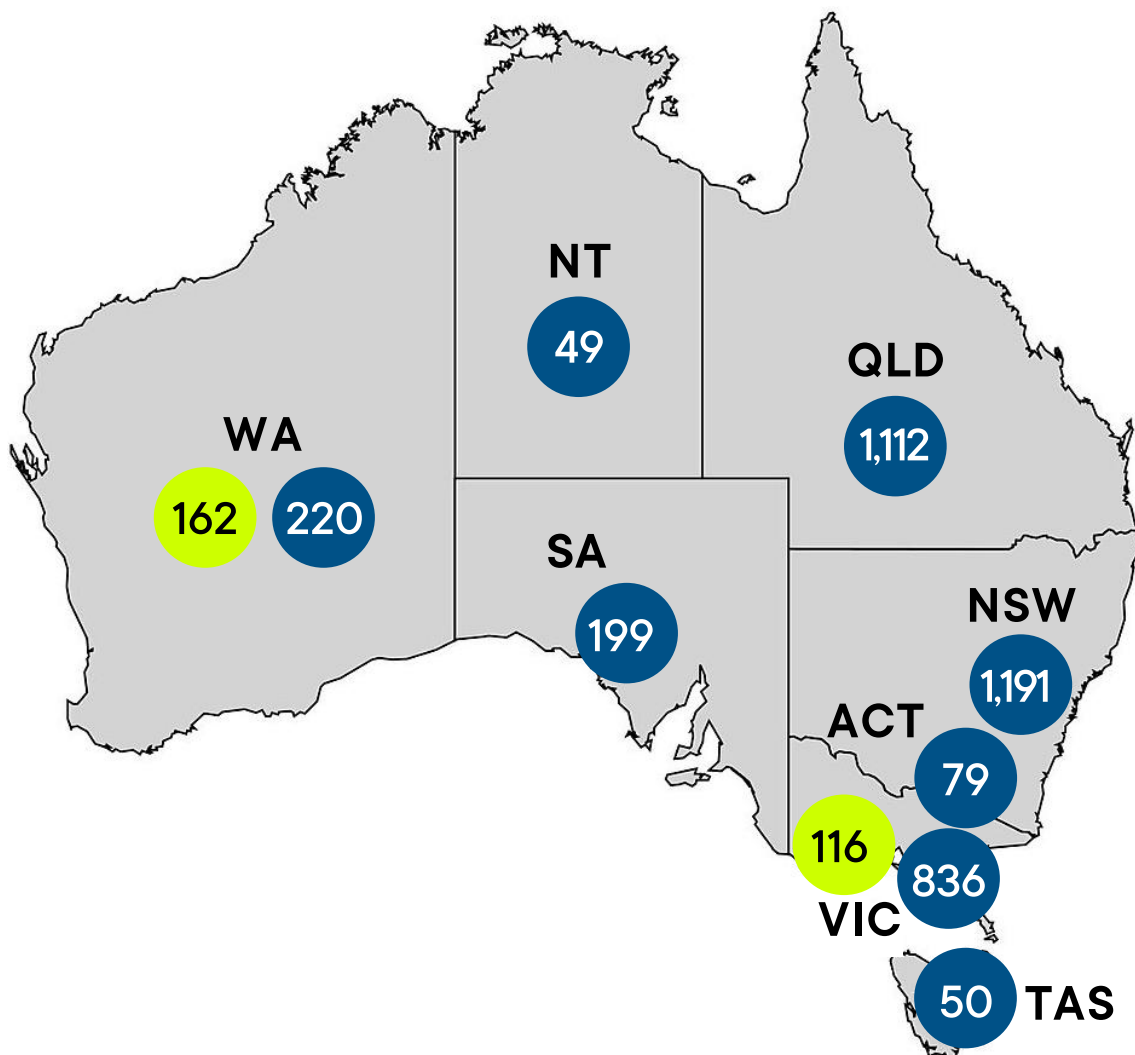
VET sector overview

As at 30 September 2025, we regulate 3,736 (93.07%) registered training organisations (RTOs)² which comprise the national VET provider market (represented below in blue ●).

The remaining RTOs (●) are regulated by the following state regulators:

- Western Australia Training Accreditation Council (WA TAC) – 162 (4.04%)
- Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) – 116 (2.89%).

² ELICOS-only providers are not counted as RTOs, and are therefore not included in this figure.



Of the 3,824 providers³ we regulate:

- 2,788 are approved to deliver VET to domestic students
- 659 are also registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) to deliver VET to international students
- 289 are also registered on the CRICOS to deliver VET and ELICOS to international students
- 88 are ELICOS-only providers that are registered on the CRICOS.

³ This figure includes the aforementioned 3,736 RTOs, as well as 88 ELICOS-only training providers.

Registering providers

Initial registration

We assess applications for registration against criteria under our legislation to ensure that students, employers, governments and the community have confidence in the providers we register. We are continuing to refine our assessment methodology to make it as efficient and effective as possible, at the same time as maintaining appropriate safeguards and ensuring alignment with the 2025 Standards for RTOs (2025 Standards) that took effect from 1 July 2025.

Our initial registration activities and outcomes – between 1 July and 30 September 2025 and for the previous 2 financial years – are set out in Tables 1 and 2 below.

In Q1 2025–26, we received 41 initial registration applications from organisations seeking to enter VET markets and finalised 78 applications (of which 48 were approved, 8 rejected and 22 withdrawn).

Of the 48 initial registration applications approved between 1 July and 30 September 2025, the number of new providers entering the sector over the period included:

- 32 providers approved to deliver to domestic students
- 6 providers approved to deliver to domestic and overseas students (each submitting 2 applications – one for provider registration and one for CRICOS registration)
- 3 providers approved to deliver English-language training only
- 1 existing provider approved to deliver to overseas students.

Registration renewal

Providers must apply to renew their registration before their registration period expires. In considering whether to renew a provider's registration, ASQA needs to be satisfied the provider remains committed to, and capable of, delivering quality training and/or assessment.

Over the last 2 years, a significant number of providers have sought to have their registration renewed. This high volume is set to continue this year as we have received an average of 75 applications per month in Q1, which matches the monthly average from 2024–25. We will continue to improve our approach to renewals across 2025–26 to ensure renewal applications are processed efficiently.

As shown in Table 2, 13 renewal applications have been rejected in Q1 2025–26. If this trend continues, the number of rejected applications will be higher than in 2024–25. This increase is attributable to a number of providers who demonstrated extended periods of non-compliance and did not show satisfactory commitment to and capability of returning to compliance.

Change of scope

Providers may also apply to add or remove training products from their scope of registration. When an application to change scope is made, we consider matters set out in the legislation in deciding whether to grant a change of scope.

As shown in Tables 1 and 2, we continue to manage large volumes of change-of-scope applications, with 1,077 received and 1,292 finalised between 1 July and 30 September 2025.

We refreshed our approach to change-of-scope applications across 2024–25 which indicates greater efficiency and shorter processing times for the vast majority of providers. However, we will continue to apply a higher degree of regulatory scrutiny where we have identified specific concerns which we need to better understand before determining change-of-scope applications.

Withdrawal of registration

Providers may apply to exit the market by requesting to have their registration withdrawn.

As shown in Table 1, we received 34 applications in Q1 2025–26. If this trend continues, we will see an increase in withdrawal applications in 2025–26. This is reflective of the number of providers choosing to exit the market.

Table 1: Applications received, 2023–24 – 2025–26 (Q1*)

Applications received	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26 (Q1*)
Initial registration	446	257	41
Renewal of registration	974	908	226
Change of scope	4,627	3,934	1,077
Withdrawal of registration	95	112	34
Total	6,142	5,211	1,378

* 1 July – 30 September 2025

Table 2: Application outcomes, 2023–24 – 2025–26 (Q1*)⁴

Application type	Decision	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26 (Q1*)
Initial registration	Approved	245	245	48
	Rejected	38	101	8
	Withdrawn	121	126	22
	Total	404	472	78

⁴ The number of application outcomes includes applications that were received in the previous financial year but not finalised until the current financial year.

Renewal of registration	Approved	837	927	163
	Rejected	10	35	13
	Withdrawn	4	21	8
	Total	851	983	184
Change of scope	Approved	4,909	3,460	1,236
	Rejected	39	61	6
	Withdrawn	153	187	50
	Total	5,101	3,708	1,292
Withdrawal of registration	Approved	65	78	35
	Rejected	3	9	5
	Withdrawn	9	24	4
	Total	77	111	44
Total	6,433	5,274	1,598	

* 1 July – 30 September 2025

Lapsing of registration

An RTO's registration will automatically lapse if it does not deliver any training and/or assessment to VET students for a consecutive period of 12 months or more (the 'measurement period'). This mechanism supports the integrity of the sector by addressing risks associated with dormant RTOs that are not actively delivering training or may be using their registration for non-genuine purposes. RTOs may apply to ASQA for an extension to the measurement period prior to their registration lapsing. Since this integrity measure took effect from 1 July 2024, ASQA has received around 270 applications to extend the measurement period, of which around 66% have been approved. Over the same period, the registration of 169 providers, that did not request or were granted an extension to the measurement period, have lapsed.

Accrediting courses

We accredit courses that may be delivered by providers to meet industry, enterprise, educational, legislative or community needs, where these needs are not met by nationally endorsed training packages. Courses may be accredited for up to 5 years and are listed on the National Register.

Our course accreditation activities and outcomes between 1 July and 30 September 2025, and for the previous 2 financial years, are set out below. Q1 2025–26 has delivered a strong start, continuing the upward trajectory in the volume of accredited course applications and approvals.

Initial accreditation approvals increased notably to 12 in Q1, compared to 3 approvals in the same quarter last financial year. This increase in initial approvals may indicate emerging trends in workforce needs, new areas of learning, or shifts in provider strategy.

Course renewals remained steady, with 14 applications approved this quarter compared to 12 in the same period last year.

As we move into Q2, the focus will remain on deepening our understanding of the drivers behind these trends. Continued collaboration with industry, targeted support, and data-informed decision-making will be key to sustaining growth and ensuring the system remains responsive and inclusive.

Table 3: Course accreditation applications received, 2023–24 – 2025–26 (Q1*)

Applications received	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26 (Q1*)
Initial accreditation	25	30	5
Renewal of accreditation	43	63	11
Course amendment	12	15	2
Total	80	108	18

* 1 July – 30 September 2025

Table 4: Course accreditation application outcomes, 2023–24 – 2025–26 (Q1*)⁵

Application type	Decision	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26 (Q1*)
Initial accreditation	Granted	16	20	12
	Rejected	5	2	0
	Withdrawn or cancelled	2	3	3
	Total	23	25	15
Renewal of accreditation	Granted	51	60	14
	Rejected	3	0	0
	Withdrawn or cancelled	0	0	0
	Total	54	60	14
Course amendment	Granted	10	8	3
	Rejected	0	0	0
	Withdrawn or cancelled	1	1	0
	Total	11	9	3
Total		88	94	32

* 1 July – 30 September 2025

⁵ The number of application outcomes includes applications that were received in the previous financial year but not finalised until the current financial year.

Educate and empower

Particularly with the 2025 Standards taking legal effect from 1 July 2025, in Q1 2025-26 we have continued to educate, communicate and engage with providers, to support them in embedding the 2025 Standards as well as continuously improving their practices and outcomes for students.

During this period, we delivered:

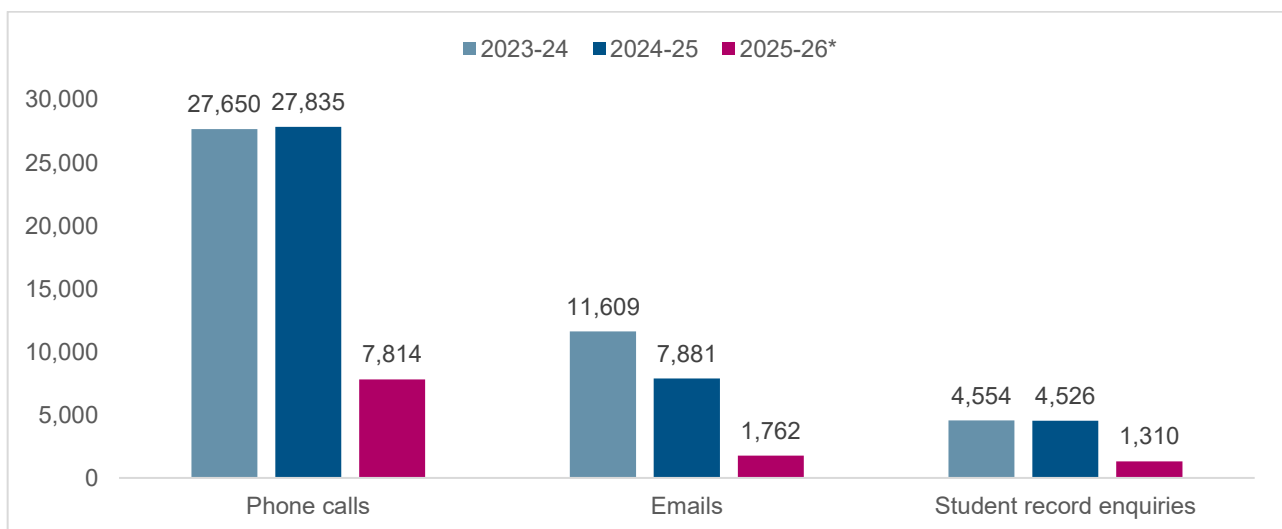
- 3 editions of *ASQA IQ Integrity and Quality in Focus*, focussing on the 2025 Standards as well as our 2025-26 Regulatory Risk Priorities
- resources to support providers to embed, and for students to better understand, the 2025 Standards, including animated videos, infographics and additional FAQs.

Our Service Delivery team continued to respond efficiently to phone and email enquiries, including requests from providers for information on meeting their regulatory obligations. This team also actioned student record requests, which are submitted online.

Our enquiries activity between 1 July and 30 September 2025, as well as for the previous 2 financial years, is set out in Figure 1 below.

At the end of Q1 2025-26, the most common enquiries received from students related to student records, notices issued by ASQA relating to individual qualifications, and requests for information. Enquiries received from providers most commonly related to application support, ASQA fees and charges, and general information about VET.

Figure 1: Enquiries received, 2023-24 – 2025-26 (Q1*)



* 1 July – 30 September 2025

ASQA continued to engage and work collaboratively with other government agencies, regulators and industry bodies across the VET sector.

In Q1 2025–26, we:

- participated in and presented at a number of events and forums, including:
 - VET Sector Strategic Forum
 - ITECA RTO Business Summit
 - China Education Association for International Exchange
 - English Australia Conference
 - VET Quality and Innovation Summit
 - Northern Territory VET Community of Practice
 - Aus4Skills Vietnam program’s Knowledge Exchange on Quality Assurance in VET
 - Stakeholder Liaison Group
- engaged with and worked collaboratively with other government state and territory agencies, regulators and industry bodies on matters of mutual interest, including:
 - the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
 - Department of Education (including the Tuition Protection Service)
 - Department of Home Affairs
 - Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
 - Fraud Fusion Taskforce
 - National Disability Insurance Agency
 - Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority
 - Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency.

Investigations and monitoring

Concerns, tip-offs and intelligence about providers

ASQA receives concerns, tip-offs and intelligence about provider practices through several channels. These come from students, staff of providers, industry representatives, and government agencies.

While ASQA is not a complaints-handling body, we engage with complainants where the information provided indicates potential non-compliance or risk to the integrity of VET.

In early February 2025, asqaconnect was decommissioned and all reports about providers are now received through a single channel, the VET tip-off line. This includes both a secure online web form and a dedicated phone line, which provide a safe and confidential way for individuals to report potential deceptive conduct, unethical behaviour, or serious non-compliance within the VET sector.

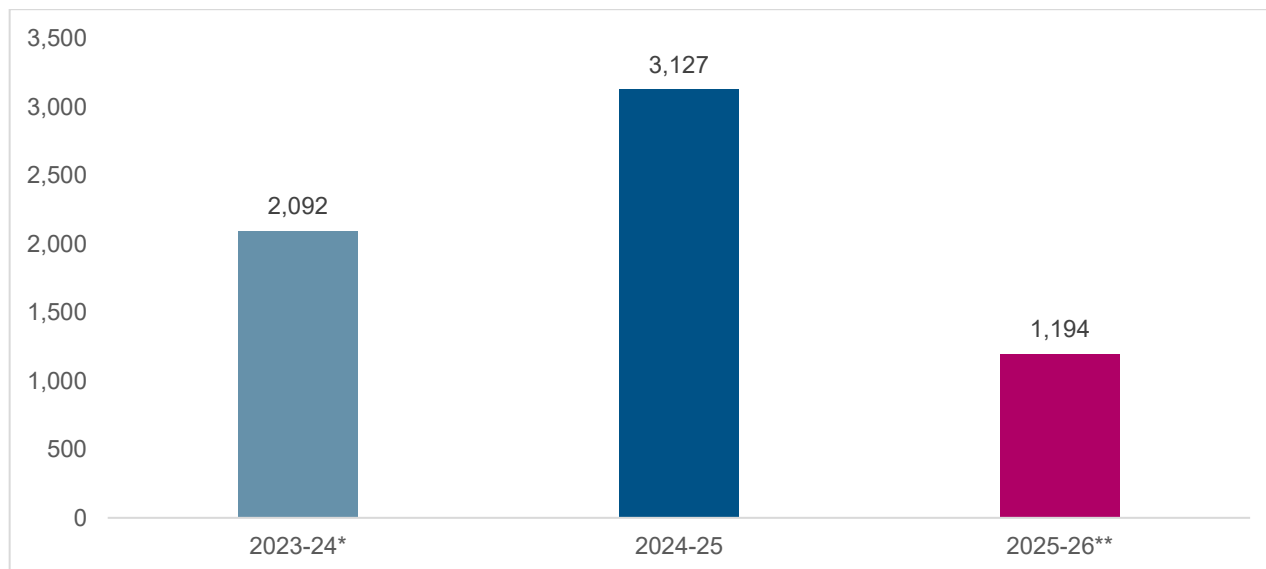
As shown in Figure 2, we received 1,194 tip-offs between 1 July and 30 September 2025.

The top 3 categories of concerns raised in tip-offs relate to allegations of:

- non-compliant assessment practices – falsified observations, Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) misuse, and inadequate validation processes
- exploitation of international students – enrolment by non-CRICOS providers, coercive fee practices, and unsafe work placements

- governance and systemic provider misconduct – including liquidation without student redress, unpaid invoices, and unilateral course changes.

Figure 2: VET tip-offs received, 2023-24* – 2025-26 (Q1)**



* 4 October 2023 – 30 June 2024

** 1 July – 30 September 2025

Regulatory assessment and monitoring of providers

We undertake a range of regulatory assessment and monitoring activities. These are part of ASQA’s broader regulatory framework, and include targeted activities with providers to assess or monitor their performance against their regulatory obligations, including with the 2025 Standards.

These activities include:

- undertaking surveys (of students and/or other stakeholders)
- interviewing providers, students, trainers/assessors and/or other provider personnel
- undertaking site visits of providers’ delivery locations
- requesting data and documents from providers and/or other government entities
- executing targeted campaigns, including by engaging with 326 Early Childhood Education and Care providers through direct phone calls
- undertaking performance assessments.

As shown in Figure 3, we finalised 81 performance assessments between 1 July and 30 September 2025. Noting that the selection of these performance assessments is based on risk indicators, 59 (73%) resulted in a finding of non-compliance. Of these, 12 (20%) providers satisfied ASQA they had addressed the issues of concern and returned to compliance.

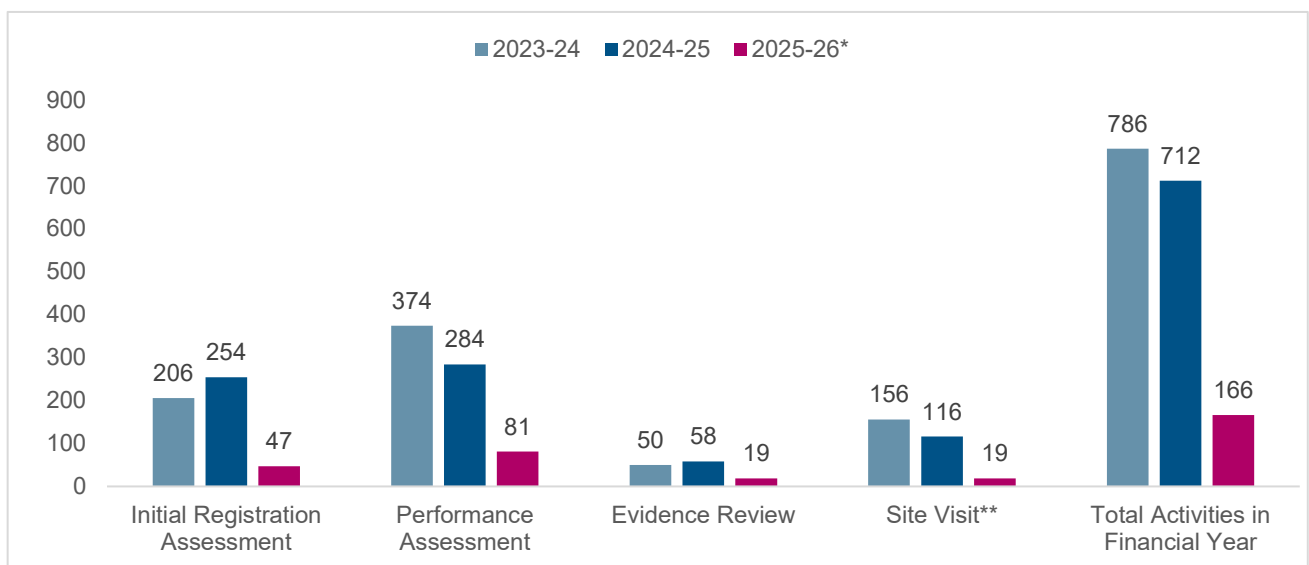
When we conduct a performance assessment of a registered provider, a sample of training products, applicable standards and broader regulatory obligations are tested. The scope of a performance assessment is informed by systemic and provider-specific risk factors.

Where a provider demonstrates a commitment and capability to address issues identified, we may offer an Agreement to Rectify (ATR), which describes:

- the actions the provider proposes to address the issues
- the evidence they will provide of their return to compliance
- the timeframes for completing these actions.

Between 1 July and 30 September 2025, 4 ATRs were finalised, of which 2 providers returned to compliance. There were no providers that entered into an ATR during this period.

Figure 3: Assessment and monitoring activities completed, 2023–24 – 2025–26 (Q1*)



* 1 July – 30 September 2025

** Previously labelled 'Review monitoring activity'

Investigations

We draw on our investigative capability and functions to:

- undertake surveillance and information collection activities
- investigate serious issues of non-compliance
- investigate and prosecute, when appropriate, the conduct of individuals, unregistered entities and registered providers who breach their legislative obligations.

Our investigations also support collaboration across government, including through strengthened information-sharing as well as increased coordination in multi-agency operations, including the Fraud Fusion Taskforce, law enforcement agencies and other regulators. Our participation in these forums is

an important part of our work in preventing, detecting, deterring and disrupting the conduct of non-genuine providers and bad faith operators, including in relation to fraudulent conduct.

As at 30 September 2025, we are managing more than 190 serious matters (where the nature of the issues and conduct in question threaten the integrity of the VET sector) in relation to the conduct of 144 providers. Of these:

- approximately 62% relate to providers that deliver training to international students
- more than 88% relate to alleged fraud, including cash for qualifications, fabrication of assessments and evidence, ghost colleges⁶, funding fraud and visa/migration risks
- more than 88% are linked to multijurisdictional actions such as Fraud Fusion Taskforce, Home Affairs, Building Commissions, funding bodies and the disruption of criminal networks.

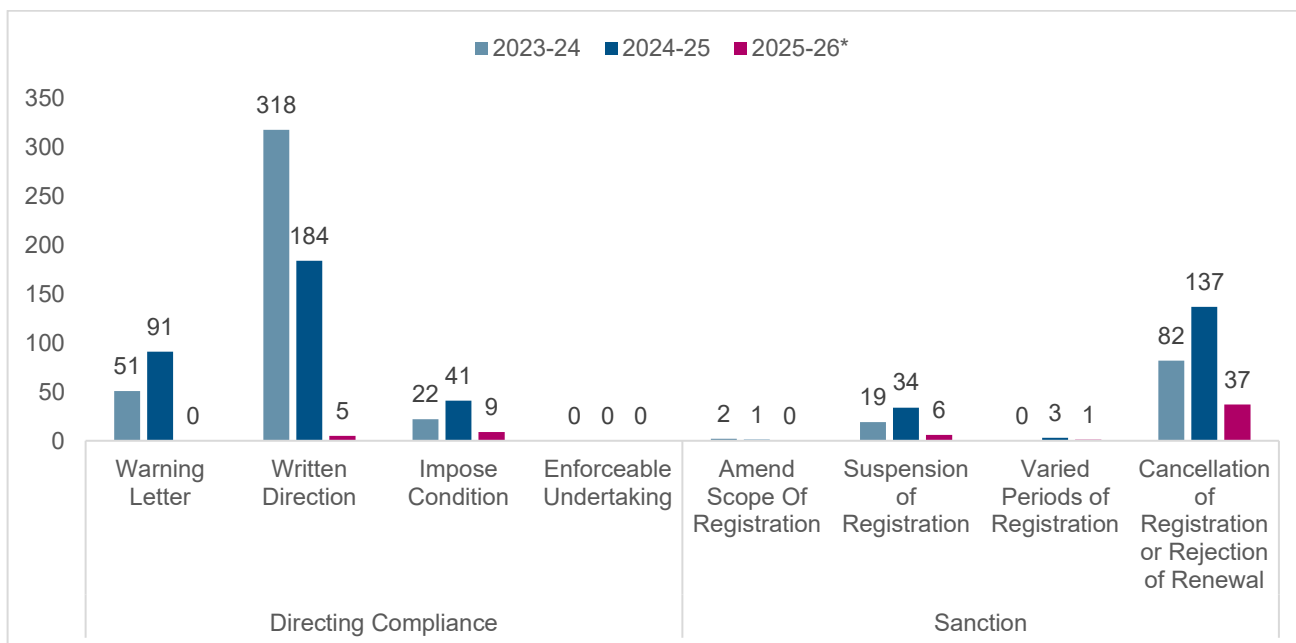
There are 46 investigations into potential breaches of the NVR Act by non-registered organisations or persons that were associated with providers that are no longer registered, relating to misleading advertising practices and qualification fraud. ASQA is also supporting 4 external investigations of providers (or individuals linked to providers) for fraud-related matters.

Taking compliance and enforcement action

Where a provider is committed to delivering quality training and assessment, but may be falling short in their capability, we use a range of escalating regulatory tools to compel and enforce compliance. If we find that a provider is neither committed to nor capable of delivering quality training and assessment, we will take regulatory action to de-register those providers who threaten the quality, integrity and reputation of the VET sector. Between 1 July and 30 September 2025, ASQA undertook a range of compliance and enforcement actions, which are detailed in Figure 4. The number of sanctions imposed relate to a total of 26 providers.

⁶ Providers that have enrolled students but conduct minimal or no actual education or training.

Figure 4: Compliance enforcement – regulatory decisions, 2023–24 – 2025–26 (Q1*)



* 1 July – 30 September 2025

Qualifications Integrity

ASQA is committed to lifting quality and integrity across the VET sector, and the integrity of qualifications issued is a primary focus. To ensure the integrity of VET and to protect the public, where we have cancelled the registration of critically non-compliant providers who have been found to have issued qualifications without the appropriate training or assessment, we are pursuing regulatory action to cancel qualifications and/or statements of attainment issued by those providers. In Q1 2025–26, we cancelled the registration of 6 critically non-compliant (unrelated) providers, following extensive compliance investigations which found that the former providers did not ensure students had successfully satisfied all requirements prior to issuing VET certification.

Prior to making any decision to cancel qualifications, we issue notices to impacted individuals about our intentions and invite them to respond and provide evidence to demonstrate the required training and/or assessment was delivered to them by the relevant former provider during the specified period.

In Q1 2025–26, ASQA issued over 6,700 notices of intention to cancel a qualification and/or statement of attainment.

Following consideration of responses and evidence received, we made decisions to cancel more than 9,100 qualifications and statements of attainment this quarter. The notices of intention to cancel for some of these qualifications were issued to impacted individuals in the previous quarter.

These qualifications and statements of attainment were required to be returned to us. If an individual continues to use a cancelled qualification or statement of attainment, we may pursue civil penalties against that individual.

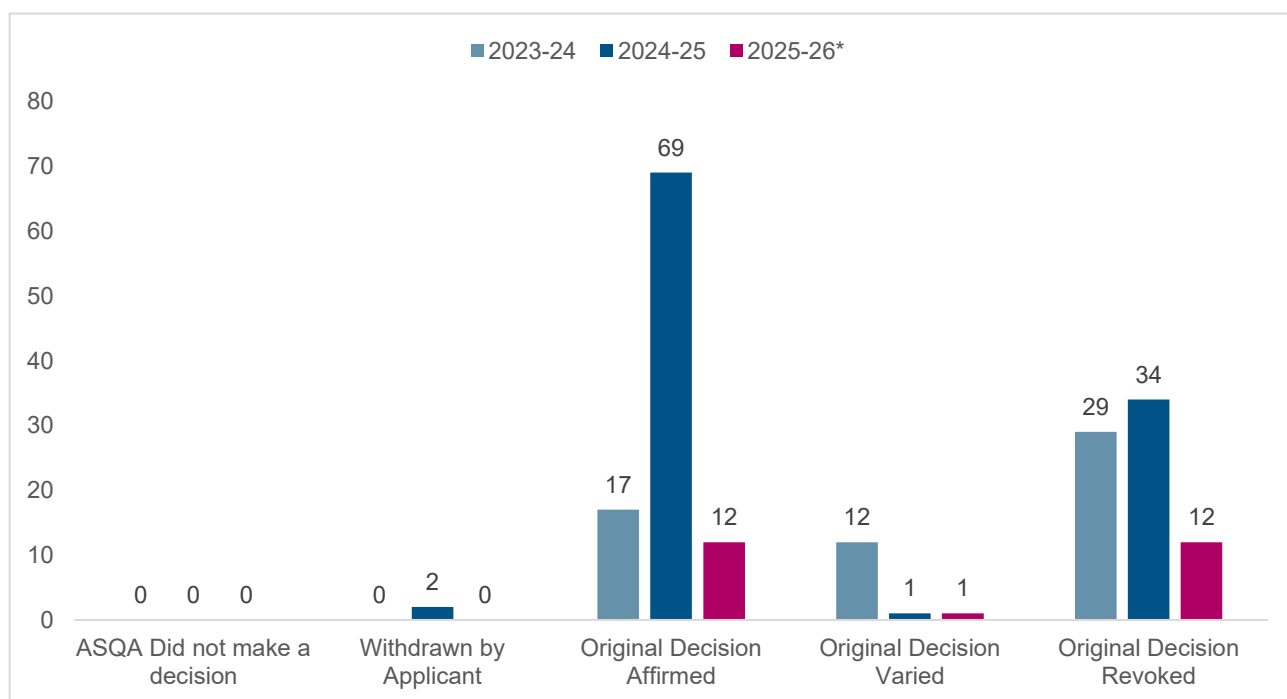
Procedural fairness and accountability

Before making a decision that adversely affects a provider or an individual, we ensure procedural fairness is afforded, which means providing robust reasons for decisions and giving the provider or individual an opportunity to respond to identified issues.

An affected party may request reconsideration (internal review) or external review of certain decisions made by ASQA. We have implemented early resolution of disputed non-compliance, supporting a focus on the provider’s return to compliance where appropriate.

As noted below in Figure 5, we finalised 25 internal review applications between 1 July and 30 September 2025 and affirmed the original decision in 12 reviews.

Figure 5: Internal review – outcomes, 2023–24 – 2025–26 (Q1*)



* 1 July – 30 September 2025

If an affected party is dissatisfied with the outcome of a reviewable decision, they may apply for merits review by the Administrative Review Tribunal (ART)⁷.

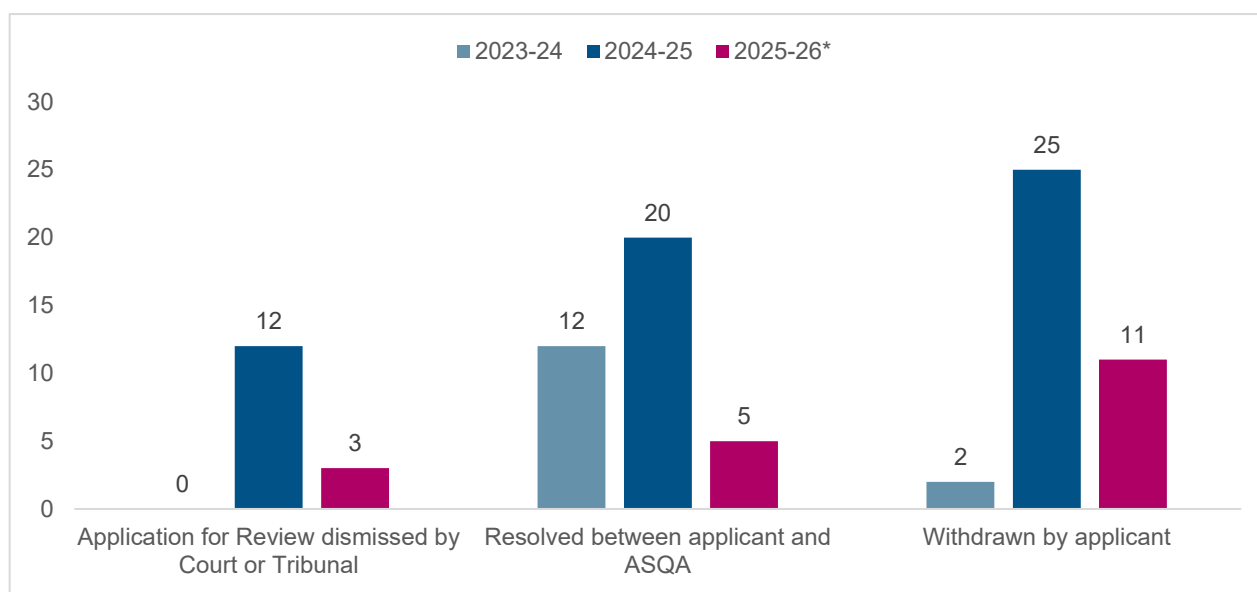
As noted in Figure 6, between 1 July and 30 September 2025, 19 Tribunal matters were concluded, consisting of:

⁷ The Administrative Review Tribunal commenced operation on 14 October 2024, replacing the former Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

- 3 matters which were dismissed by the Tribunal
- 5 matters which were resolved between the applicant and ASQA ahead of a hearing
- 11 matters which were withdrawn by the applicant.

There were no matters that had proceeded to a contested hearing that were finalised during the period.

Figure 6: External review outcomes – where the matter did not proceed to a hearing, 2023–24 – 2025–26 (Q1*)



* 1 July – 30 September 2025

Our service standards

ASQA’s service standards set clear expectations for timeliness and transparency in our regulatory activities. In Q1 2025–26, we maintained strong performance across several key areas. Our Service Delivery function continues to meet standards, answering telephone calls and written correspondence promptly. Service standards for internal reviews and complaint handling were met 100% of the time, reflecting our commitment to accessible and responsive feedback mechanisms. Course accreditation for new applications was a particular highlight, with 92% finalised within the required timeframe – a result driven by focussed effort and improved processing efficiency.

While some areas remain below target, performance is trending positively. Initial registration assessments were completed within the 90-day timeframe in 54% of cases – a significant improvement from just 12% in the 2024–25 financial year. Performance assessment activity is progressively stabilising following a period of resource reprioritisation to support high-priority initiatives. In Q1, the commencement of 2 targeted campaigns and the implementation of the 2025 Standards temporarily impacted throughput in this area. These factors are not expected to affect performance in quarters 3 and 4.

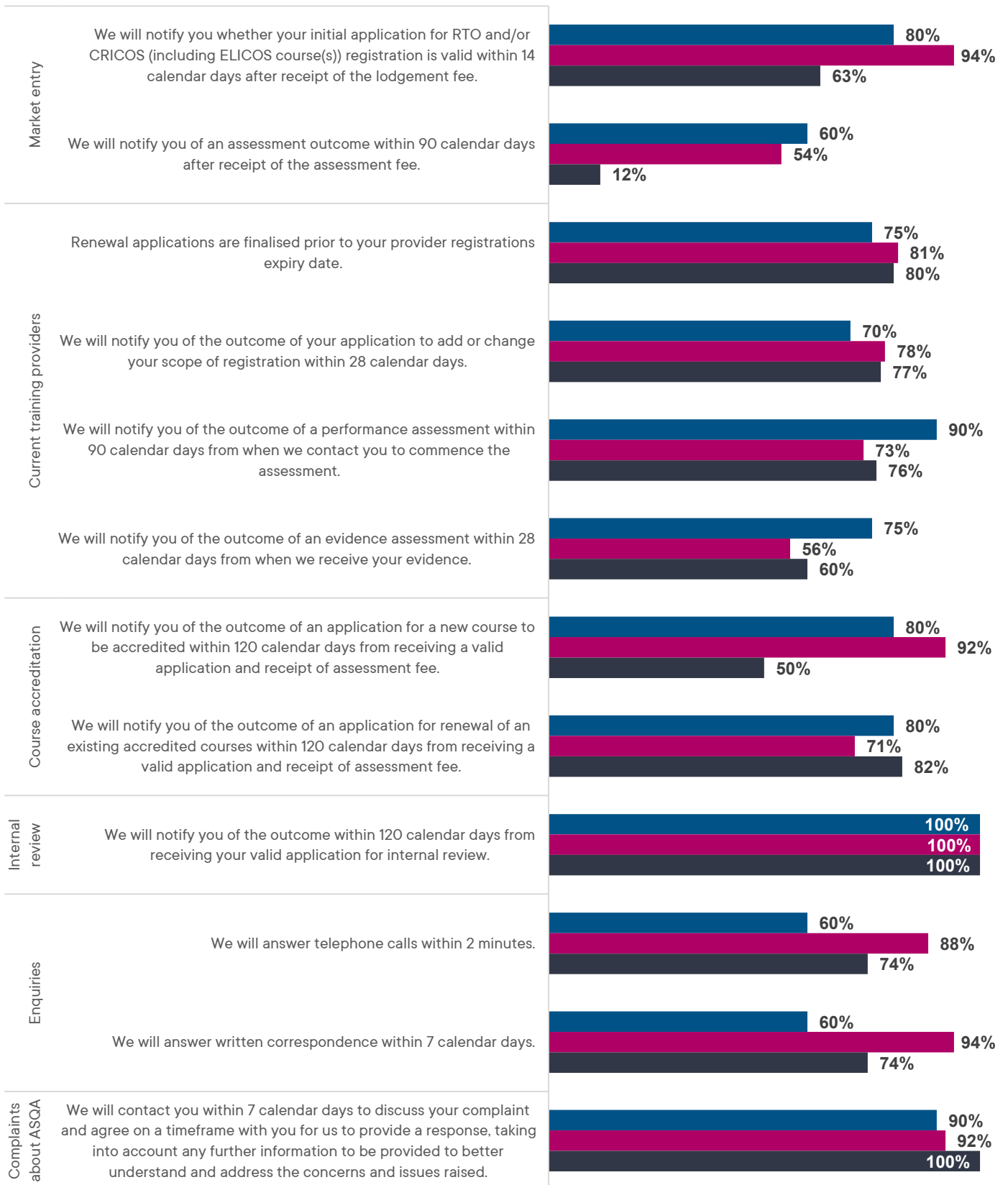
Compliance management activity has increased, driven by a higher volume and complexity of non-compliance cases, which has resulted in a greater number of evidence assessments. Despite these

challenges, renewal/change of scope applications continue to meet expectations. Course renewals, particularly in technically intensive industries, remain a challenge and highlight the importance of balancing regulatory rigour with responsiveness to evolving industry and community needs.

Overall, Q1 results reflect steady progress and a strong foundation for continued improvement across the remainder of the 2025-26 financial year. We remain focussed on building performance in areas where standards are not yet consistently met, while sustaining high-quality outcomes in areas of strength. These results demonstrate our ongoing commitment to delivering timely, fair and transparent regulation that supports quality outcomes for learners and providers.

Performance against service standards

■ Target ■ Q1 2025-26* Result ■ 2024-25 Result



*1 July – 30 September 2025