

RESPONSE TO OPTIONS PAPER BY VIVIENNE SCOTT AND PRISCILLA SHORNE

Question 1

The current arrangements for assuring the quality of TAFE teaching are not satisfactory for the following reasons:

- The TAA/TAE qualification is not adequate. Many practitioners have the qualification but are not competent in designing, delivering and assessing to meet industry needs using Training Packages.
- The TAA/TAE does not aim to produce quality teaching
- Audit processes have not really been concerned with good teaching in the past though changes are occurring
- Very little emphasis is placed on good pedagogy in colleges

Question 2

The question might more accurately be what existing processes?

- Without funds for training and relief hours from teaching provided, there will not be any advanced teaching courses.
- RTOs need to value teaching and to see the desirability of their staff being highly skilled professionals.
- A huge barrier to quality is that fact that currently teachers are not evaluated in any meaningful way. In WA TAFE, managers cannot enter the classroom to observe and give feedback but even if they have taught, they are not necessarily skilled themselves.
- MLCR and student feedback are problematic as there are so many confounding variables it is difficult to separate the variable of quantity teaching.
- Internal evaluation may be flawed if the person doing the evaluation is not highly skilled themselves.
- Many skilled practitioners would welcome master classes in teaching, however we question the ability of the Skills councils to lead this initiative.
- RTOs need to develop a culture of learning and provide support (time and money) for staff gaining higher teaching qualifications

Question 3

The staged options are interesting but what is going to drive their adoption? We are tempted to opt for going straight to the third option.

Question 4

We see no problem with these elements and find them useful and reasonable.

Question 5

We would make no changes.

Question 6

We would not add anything

Elements

- In regard to registration – paying for registration as in (WACOT) does not improve quality. A points system for PD points - some for professional VET teaching as well separate points for vocational currency should be required for teachers to maintain their registration
- We strongly support a centre for scholarship on VET teaching.