



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by MR PARTON on 31 July 2023: Minister STEEL (Skills) took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: *Uncorrected Hansard Transcript* 31 July 2023 [page 33]

In relation to:

What training package licensing fee arrangements are there for the silica dust mandatory training courses?

THE CHAIR: I would just like to return briefly, if I could, to the silica dust training. I am with you, minister, and I understand that this issue of mandatory training straddles a number of portfolios, but yours is definitely one of them. I just want to ask you whether you are of the belief that it is appropriate that your government has mandated that every construction worker in Canberra must undertake a silica dust training course; but the only course that you are able to undertake is the one that has been put together by the CFMEU organisation Creative Safety Initiatives?

You have taken on notice the fee that goes back from each individual who has undertaken the course, but at 14,000 participants, even at \$50, you are talking not far shy of \$1 million that will go straight back to the CFMEU—which, of course, no-one is surprised and everyone is aware of the fact that the CFMEU is directly affiliated with ACT Labor. Do you see that arrangement as appropriate, minister?

Mr Steel: Well, I am not responsible for the mandating of that training. That is a matter for the Work Safe Commissioner to answer, so I would certainly direct your questions there. But certainly, what I have undertaken to do is take on notice to provide some information in relation to training package licencing and how that system operates around Australia.

Mr Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

Training packages are designed to meet Australia's training needs and are available for all Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) to use. Development of training packages is funded by the Australian Government.

10830NAT Course in Crystalline Silica Exposure Prevention is an accredited course. Accredited courses are developed to fill skills and knowledge gaps that are not covered by training packages. Organisations are permitted in Australia to develop courses for accreditation. Course owners pay to

accredit a course. They own the intellectual property (IP) and can 'licence' it to RTOs. Both accredited courses and training packages are nationally recognised.

Only RTOs can deliver accredited courses. To deliver an accredited course, an RTO needs to own the course or have permission from the course owner to use it, and add it to their scope of registration.

All accredited courses in Australia are listed on the national register. The national register lists the code and title for each unit of competency in an accredited course. The national register also lists RTOs approved to deliver accredited courses.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature: 

Date: 11/8/23

By the Minister for Skills, Mr Steel MLA