



Attorney General and Skills Minister Yvette D'Ath in Parliament. Pic Annette Dew

News

Australian School Based Traineeship Pty Ltd placed in liquidation

TONY RAGGATT, Townsville
May 26, 2017 8:55am
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THE traineeships of Townsville, are in limbo

Sunshine Coast-based training provider Miraziz, was placed in liquidation

Students have been told their employment has been terminated.

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The concerned mother of a trainee was devastated.

“My son attends (a Townsville school) which facilitated his entry into what seemed like a fabulous opportunity,” the woman said.

“Not only would my son gain a Certificate II in retail but he would also gain essential workplace experience and new skills.

“It’s so difficult for students with disabilities, particularly intellectual disabilities, to attain employment.

“So this was a chance for him to gain incredibly valuable experience.

“It’s now been ripped away from him. My son is so upset. It’s devastating.”

The ASBT website says it offers school-based traineeships to year 11 and 12 students with a disability Australia-wide.

A spokesman for the Queensland Department of Education and Training said they did not provide any funding or incentives to Australian School Based Traineeships as an employer of school-based trainees who are paid a minimum wage for their work experience.

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“(The department) is aware of ASBT’s financial situation and has been working with impacted schools, trainees and their parents to facilitate transfer of their training contracts to interested employers and to secure continued access to ongoing training through a departmentally approved pre-qualified training provider,” the spokesman said in a statement.

The Townsville mother told the Bulletin she had been concerned when ASBT earlier this year suddenly removed another training group, ASPIRE, which had been delivering school-based theory under the program and took on that work itself.

“ASBT claimed it could offer better quality training at the school level. Given subsequent events it is quite possible that ASBT (was) running short of cash (and) cut ASPIRE out of the program in order to have access to additional money available under the training component,” she said.

It is understood negotiations are under way for another group to continue the traineeships.

Liquidator Worrells has advised students to lodge claims with the Federal Government’s Fair Entitlements Guarantee Scheme for any wages and entitlements they are owed.

A spokesman for Worrells and receivers and managers Mackay Goodwin could not be contacted for comment.