



Information Guidelines – Summary of consultation outcomes

This report provides a summary on the outcomes of the consultation on TEQSA's draft Information Guidelines.

TEQSA published the draft Information Guidelines and an accompanying consultation paper on TEQSA's website on 1 March 2013. TEQSA asked for submissions on the Draft Information Guidelines with a closing date for responses of 28 March 2013. TEQSA received 11 responses and they fell into four broad categories:

1. Comments on the authorities included in Schedule A of the Draft Information Guidelines or suggestions for bodies to be added to Schedule A. These comments included suggestions for the inclusion of bodies that cannot be included in the Information Guidelines on the basis that they are not Commonwealth Authorities or State or Territory authorities within the meaning set out in the TEQSA Act.
2. Questions asking whether TEQSA will advise higher education providers that information about them has been disclosed to bodies in Schedule A of the Draft Information Guidelines.
3. Questions on how information that is commercial in confidence will be used and what confidentiality arrangements will apply to authorities in Schedule A.
4. Questions on the type of information that may be disclosed.

In relation to the first category of responses TEQSA included two additional authorities in the Information Guidelines based on the submissions received; the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and the Professional Standards Board for Patents and Trade Mark Attorneys.

Categories 2-4 of the submissions are beyond the scope of the instrument, but the responses will be taken into account when TEQSA is considering whether to disclose higher education information under the instrument.

TEQSA will comply with its legislative obligations when disclosing any higher education information. TEQSA has also published further information on how it treats requests to deal with information on a confidential basis in the documents collecting information, including TEQSA's application forms and guides and TEQSA's annual Provider Information Request.

The Information Guidelines have now been registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments. A copy of the instrument and its explanatory statement can be found at <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2013L00760>.

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