



Memorandum of Understanding

1. Parties

The parties to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) are the Commonwealth of Australia as represented by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) and the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA).

TEQSA was established under the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011* (TEQSA Act) as the national regulator for Australia's higher education sector. TEQSA's functions are set out in section 134 of the TEQSA Act. TEQSA is also an ESOS Agency responsible for higher education courses, foundation programs and some ELICOS under the *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000*.

ACECQA is the independent national authority that guides the implementation of the National Quality Framework (NQF) under the Education and Care Services National Law, which commenced in January 2012. The NQF is the national system for regulating education and care services, setting levels of safety and quality that aim to ensure all children who attend long day care, preschool/kindergarten, outside school hours care and family day care have the best start in life. ACECQA works with regulatory authorities in each state and territory to implement and administer the NQF.

ACECQA collaborates with governments and the education and care sector through:

- a. support and guidance for the education and care sector
- b. training, systems and operation policy support for regulatory authorities
- c. information and advice to families who use education and care services
- d. research, evaluation and reporting on the education and care sector
- e. legislated functions to approve and publish lists of higher education and vocational level qualifications, including lists of approved early childhood teaching, diploma level and certificate III level qualifications. Individuals with qualifications not on the approved qualifications lists can apply to ACECQA to have their qualifications assessed for equivalence. Typically these are qualifications gained outside Australia.

2. Purpose

TEQSA and ACECQA agree to cooperate for the benefit of both parties. This MOU is not intended to create legally binding relations between the parties, and neither party has the authority to act on behalf of or otherwise bind the other party.

3. Areas of cooperation

TEQSA and ACECQA agree to cooperate in ways including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. To exchange non-confidential policy documents about their approaches to quality assurance and regulation;
- b. To the extent permitted by law, to enable dialogue and information sharing about individual higher education providers, to assist the parties to perform their functions. The parties acknowledge that TEQSA's capacity to disclose information about entities regulated by TEQSA is restricted by Division 2 of Part 10 of the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011*; and
- c. Other means of cooperation agreed between the parties from time to time.

4. Term

This MOU will take effect from the date on which it is signed by both parties and shall continue for three years. It may be extended on the mutual agreement of both parties.

5. Variation

This MOU may be altered with the written agreement of both parties.

6. Liaison

The following officials will be the main points of contact between the parties:

- a. TEQSA – Dr Karen Treloar, Director (Engagement), karen.treloar@teqsa.gov.au, 03 8306 2430.
- b. ACECQA – Chris Mason, Senior Manager of Research and Qualifications Assessment, chris.mason@acecqa.gov.au, 02 8240 4249.

Contact may occur between other members of staff nominated by their respective agencies in relation to particular areas of cooperation.

7. Resources

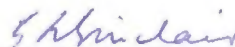
Unless alternative arrangements are specifically agreed to undertake particular activities, the two agencies will normally cover their own costs of implementing the terms of the MOU.

Signed by



Anthony McClaran
Chief Executive Officer
For and on behalf of TEQSA

Date: 6/3/2017



Gabrielle Sinclair
Chief Executive Officer
For and on behalf of ACECQA

Date: 28/2/2017