



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 Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ).

- 1.1 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, which are set out in section 134 of the TEQSA Act. TEQSA is also an ESOS Agency responsible for higher education overseas courses, foundation programs and some ELICOS under the *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000*.
- 1.2 The OCANZ assesses overseas optometry qualifications and conducts a competency-based examination for international optometrists. It also assesses, for the purposes of accreditation, the Australian and New Zealand optometry courses. OCANZ is an accreditation authority under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS).
- 1.3 The parties acknowledge that OCANZ is a body responsible for regulating an occupation in a State or Territory for the purposes of section 193 of the TEQSA Act.

2. Purpose

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

- a. To exchange non-confidential policy documents about their approaches to accreditation, 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, unless it is terminated by the provision of three months' notice. 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. OCANZ – Ms Sian Lewis, Executive Officer OCANZ, sianeLewis@ocanz.org, 03 9670 3173.
- c. 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 on 01 August 2017



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Anthony McClaran
Chief Executive Officer
For and on behalf of TEQSA



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Sian Lewis
Executive Officer, OCANZ
For and on behalf of OCANZ