



Memorandum of Understanding

1. Parties

- 1.1 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 Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT).
- 1.2 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, include registering higher education providers, accrediting higher education courses of study and conducting compliance assessments or quality assessments on matters related to registered higher education providers or courses of study. 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*.
- 1.3 VIT is the independent statutory authority responsible for the regulation of teachers in Victoria. VIT regulates the Victorian teaching profession in the public interest by enforcing high ethical and professional standards for teachers. VIT functions under the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* and reports to the Victorian Parliament through the Minister for Education. An important function of VIT is the approval of initial teacher education programs leading to qualification for registration as a teacher.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 TEQSA and VIT agree to cooperate for the benefit of both parties with a view to improving the quality of higher education in Australia. 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.
- 2.2 This MOU has been developed in response to a Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group (TEMAG) recommendation to develop a synchronised process that ensures a robust framework for, and consistent assessment of, initial teacher education programs.
- 2.3 The parties acknowledge that VIT is specified in the Information Guidelines made under section 204 of the TEQSA Act, and that this permits TEQSA to share "higher education information" with VIT.

3. Areas of cooperation

TEQSA and VIT 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 and seek to align regulatory processes;
- b. To enable dialogue and information sharing about providers regulated by either party, to assist the parties to perform their functions, and in accordance with any legislation or other legal requirements that apply to the parties;
- 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 and Termination

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

5.2 Either party may terminate this MOU in whole or in part with the provision of three months written notice. Where a party provides a notice of termination in accordance with this clause 5, the parties agree to work together in good faith to make suitable transition arrangements in relation to the termination of the MOU (or for that part of the MOU which is the subject of the notice).

6. Liaison

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

- a. TEQSA – Karen Treloar, Director (PAET), karen.treloar@teqsa.gov.au, 03 8306 2430.
- b. VIT - Melanie Saba, CEO, melanie.saba@vit.vic.edu.au, 03 8601 6121.

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 Memorandum.



Mr Anthony McClaran
Chief Executive Officer
For and on behalf of TEQSA

Signed on: 09/01/2017



Ms Melanie Saba
Chief Executive Officer
For and on behalf of VIT

Signed on: 21/12/16