



Australian Government
Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

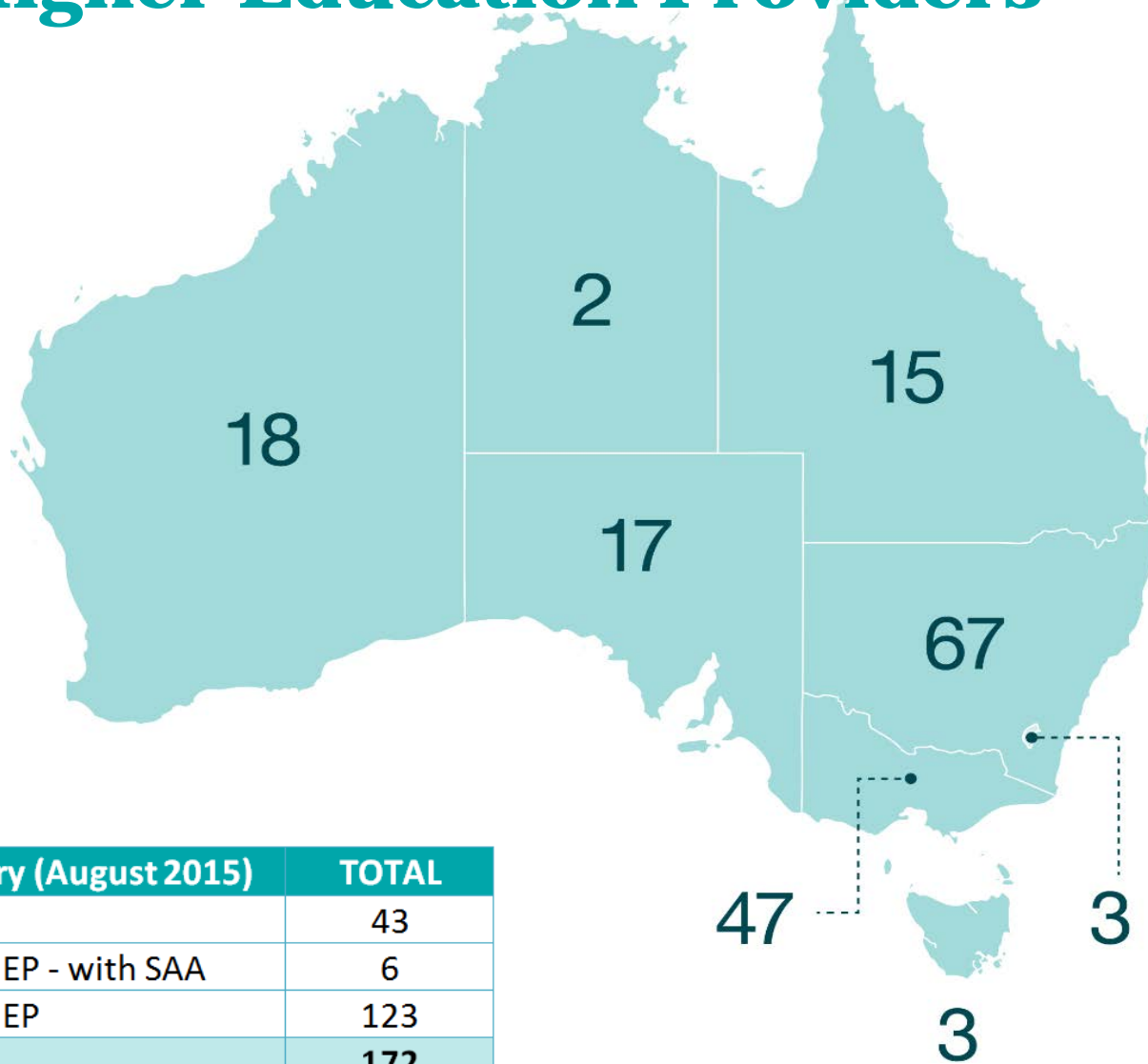


TEQSA - Provider Roundtable Discussions

August / September 2015



Higher Education Providers



Provider Category (August 2015)	TOTAL
University	43
Non University HEP - with SAA	6
Non University HEP	123
TOTAL	172



NUHEPS

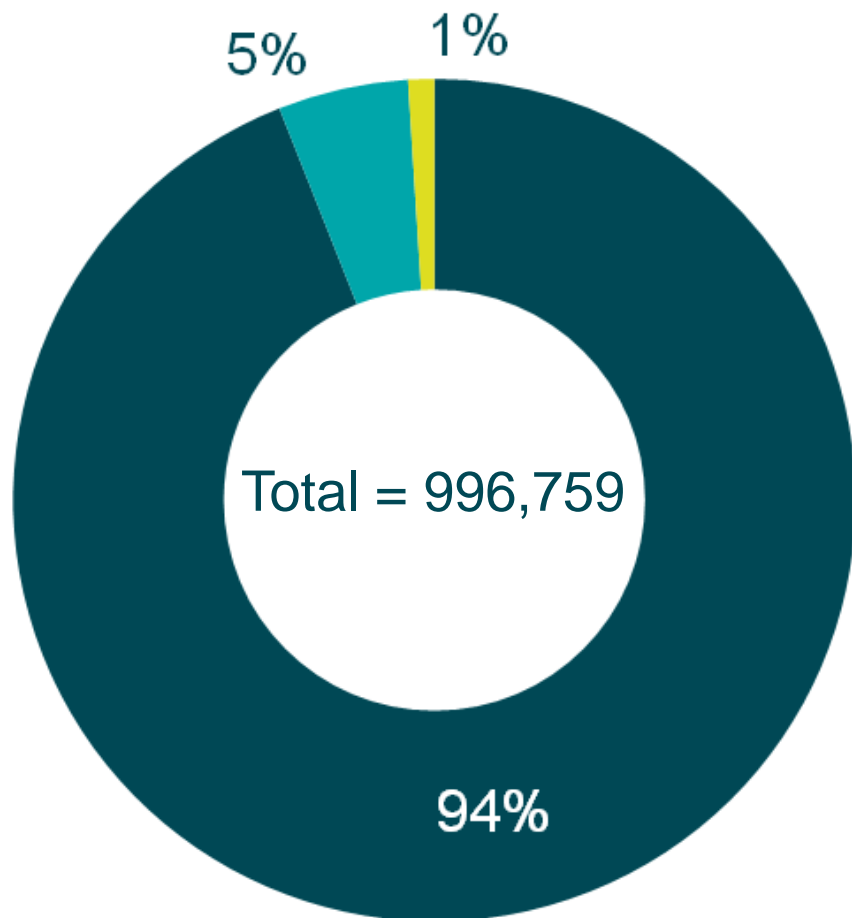
Group	Number of Providers
For Profit	52
Not for profit:	65
• TAFE	12
• Faith-based	24
• Professional Assocs	7
• Government Agencies	4
• Other	18
Pathway	13
Total	130

Source: TEQSA national register, 8th May 2015

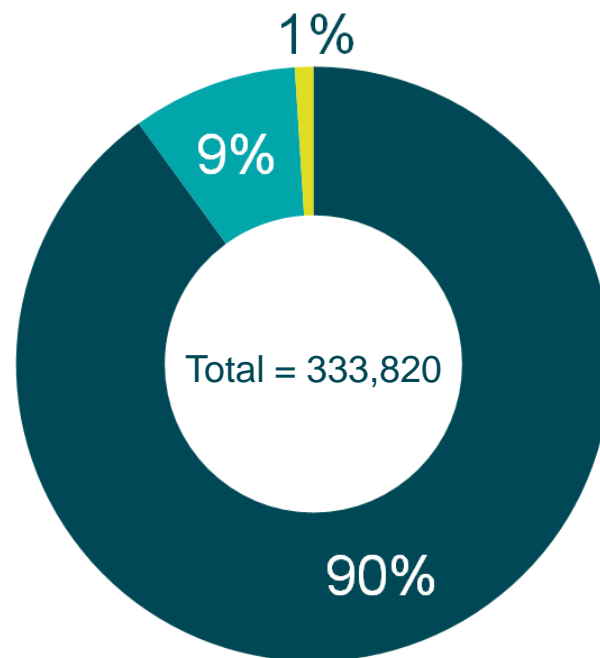


Students (2013)

Domestic



International



- Universities
- NUHEPs (FEE-HELP)
- NUHEPs (Other)



Risk Indicators

- ▶ The 12 indicators used by TEQSA to annually assess a provider's risk are described at <http://www.teqsa.gov.au/regulatory-approach/risk-assessment-framework>
- ▶ These indicators show that the higher education sector overall is low risk
- ▶ Identified risk in certain combinations of indicators can point to the need for close assessment of a provider (eg student outcome and staffing indicators)



Sector risk profile

- ▶ Under its Risk Assessment Framework, TEQSA combines the indicator measures to derive two overall provider risks: risk to students and risk to financial position
- ▶ The majority of Australian higher education providers are low risk for each of these risks
- ▶ Providers assessed as having higher risk are monitored closely



Registration Renewal Outcomes

- ▶ The majority of providers have a positive outcome from their re-registration application
- ▶ Adverse decisions taken by TEQSA (such as the imposition of conditions) most frequently result from concerns in relation to the following Provider Registration Standards:
 - ▶ Corporate and academic governance (Section 3)
 - ▶ Management and human resources (Section 5)
 - ▶ Primacy of academic quality and integrity (Section 4)



Registration Renewal Outcomes continued

- ▶ Overall, TEQSA much more likely to impose conditions and/or shorten the period of registration than to reject an application outright



Course Accreditation Outcomes

- ▶ The large majority of course accreditation and re-accreditation applications have a positive outcome
- ▶ Adverse decisions most frequently result from concerns in relation to the following Provider Course Accreditation Standards:
 - ▶ Assessment and outcomes (Section 5)
 - ▶ Teaching and learning quality (Section 4)
 - ▶ Course design (Section 1)
 - ▶ Monitoring and review (Section 6)



Alignment of Risk Ratings and Assessment Outcomes

- ▶ Low risk providers are very much less likely to receive an adverse decision about their registration or courses than providers with a moderate or high risk rating



Characteristics that give confidence

- ▶ **Public:**

bodies corporate and public companies listed on the ASX

- ▶ **Successful track record in:**

tertiary/higher education delivery, high quality student outcomes, self-accrediting authority

- ▶ **Extensive:**

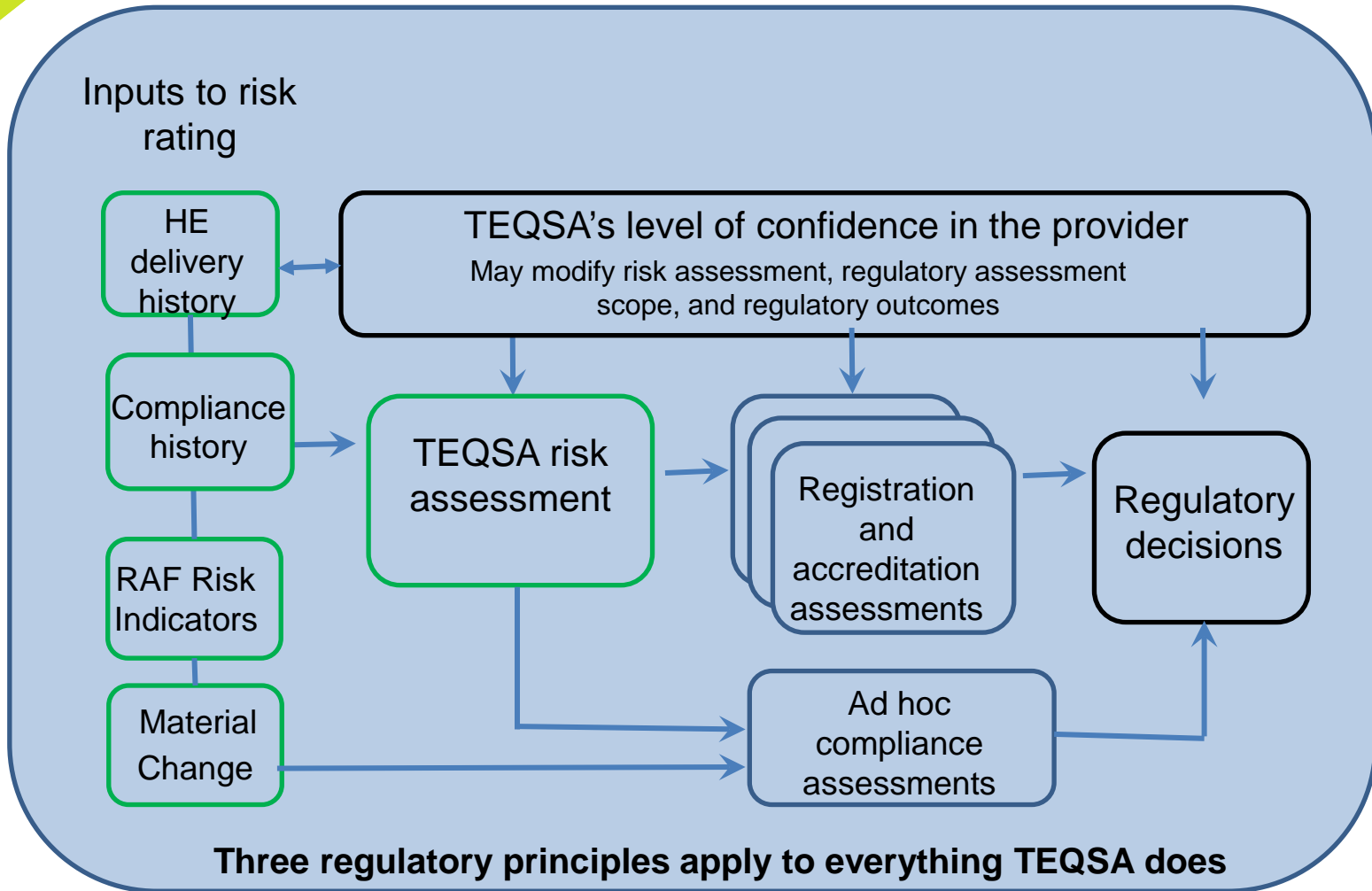
financial resources, corporate/academic governance, academic breadth/depth, engagement in academic networks

- ▶ **Significant:**

research/research training, professional/industry engagement, engagement with and accountability to local communities



Assessment framework





Re-registration: Core +

Core

Assessment of core set of 7 standards for low risk providers:

- Governance (2)
- Planning and performance outcomes (2)
- Academic quality assurance (1)
- Student experience and support (2)



Extension

Assessment of targeted standards based on:

- Risk profile (mod/high)
- Unresolved regulatory issues
- Limited/no history with TEQSA

Initial registrations are assessed against all standards



Extending Core + to courses

Core

- Sound HE history
- No significant risks
- No compliance issues
- **Course specific:**
 - * Strong external review
 - * Existing course/s
 - * Established field
 - * Established AQF level

**Scope will
vary based
on a number
of factors**

Core +

- Limited/no HE history
- Significant risks
- Compliance issues
- **Course specific:**
 - * Limited external review
 - * New course/s
 - * New field
 - * New AQF level



Monitoring and Assessment

- ▶ Reduced focus on cyclical assessment processes
- ▶ Risk-differentiated framework for determining level of focus on each provider
- ▶ Enhanced sector analysis, gathering of market intelligence and general surveillance
- ▶ Expanded guidance and support for providers
- ▶ Development of strategies and tools for targeted, graduated follow-up to risk assessments



What will not change

- ▶ What is not proposed to change includes:
 - ▶ Case Managers for each provider, strong stakeholder engagement
 - ▶ Full assessments for entry, Self-Accrediting Authority and Provider Category changes
 - ▶ In-depth compliance assessments for complex and/or high risk cases
 - ▶ Discretionary full or partial compliance assessments where significant cause for concern



Future Developments

- ▶ Introduction of new HE Standards
- ▶ Regulator performance framework



Revised Standards Framework

- ▶ Single set of standards
- ▶ Current status
- ▶ Anticipated introduction
- ▶ Transition process for providers



Revised Standards Framework

- ▶ Particularly valuable for internal monitoring
 - ▶ Fits well with TEQSA's emphasis on a culture of self-assurance
- ▶ Will help strengthen promotion of self-assurance
- ▶ Continue to use core + extension approach

Government's Regulator Performance Framework

- ▶ Do not unnecessarily impede the efficient operation of regulated entities
- ▶ Communication is clear, targeted and effective
- ▶ Actions are proportionate to the risk being managed
- ▶ Compliance and monitoring approaches are streamlined and coordinated
- ▶ Open and transparent in dealings with regulated entities
- ▶ Actively contribute to the continuous improvement of regulatory frameworks