



TEQSA UPDATE, OCTOBER 2013

Welcome to the October 2013 TEQSA Update. The TEQSA Update provides information to providers in the higher education sector about TEQSA's regulatory framework, policies and requirements. It also contains news about recent activities and upcoming events.

TEQSA reform agenda

TEQSA has released two consultation papers seeking feedback on key parts of the Agency's reform agenda. The papers outline TEQSA's proposed actions for reform of its regulatory approach, as announced at the October provider briefing:

- ▶ Future directions for the TEQSA Regulatory Risk Framework; and
- ▶ Future directions for TEQSA's regulatory processes.

The papers are available to download from the TEQSA website at <http://www.teqsa.gov.au/regulatory-approach/reform-and-continuous-improvement>.

TEQSA met with representatives of four peak bodies on 11 October to discuss the reform agenda. Both discussion papers were emailed to providers on 23 October, as well as sector peak bodies.

TEQSA encourages all providers to consider these papers and provide a response by the closing of the consultation period, at **5.00PM on 4 December**.

The reform agenda draws on TEQSA's regulatory experiences and achievements over the past 18 months, including the completion of the first regulatory risk cycle, experience gained through TEQSA's registration and accreditation activities, and increased knowledge of each provider. The reforms respond to sector feedback, and the findings of the recent review of higher education regulation.

The reform proposals also address the Direction given to the Agency by the Minister for Education on 22 October 2013, to apply "a deregulatory and quality enhancement philosophy and deliberate action to remove red tape". The Ministerial Direction is online at <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2013L01824>.

Through its reform process, TEQSA aims to address the main areas of concern to the sector, including: reporting requirements; duplication of requirements across regulatory bodies; the time taken to make regulatory decisions; and ensuring that regulatory assessments are risk-based and proportionate.

October provider briefing

TEQSA's second provider briefing for 2013 was attended by over 360 provider and sector representatives.

TEQSA used the day to outline its reform agenda, including the proposed future directions for regulatory processes and the Regulatory Risk Framework.

The overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees confirmed that providers see the briefings as a great opportunity to learn more about TEQSA and its regulatory approaches, and to engage with Case Managers and Commissioners. Presentations from the day are available for download on the TEQSA website at <http://www.teqsa.gov.au/news-publications/events>.

TEQSA-OLT Forum on eLearning

TEQSA and the Office for Learning and Teaching (OLT) jointly hosted a Forum on eLearning at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on 4 October.

The forum was an opportunity for the higher education sector to discuss the potential of new technologies to enhance learning outcomes, and the challenges of keeping pace with and exploiting opportunities in eLearning while maintaining and enhancing quality in higher education.

The forum included an outline of TEQSA's regulatory approach to online delivery and updates on OLT Projects exploring the potential of eLearning such as augmented reality. Sessions covered institutional strategies for implementing eLearning approaches, and eLearning's impact on the quality of the student experience. Coursera co-founder and Stanford Professor Daphne Koller joined the forum from California, via Skype.

Feedback has indicated that participants enjoyed the mix of sessions and the opportunity to network with colleagues from a range of providers.

Provider Information Request (PIR) update*

Providers were recently notified that the submission portal for the 2013 PIR is open. The TEQSA Information Management team is available to assist providers – if you require assistance or have any questions, please contact the team:

- ▶ Telephone: 03 8306 2545
- ▶ email: collections@teqsa.gov.au

We encourage providers to raise any questions and to submit data as early as possible. The submission date for the 2013 PIR is 2 December.

**This information is relevant to higher education providers only and does not affect stand-alone ELICOS or Foundation Program providers.*

ELICOS request for information*

In October, TEQSA issued the first annual information request from stand-alone ELICOS and Foundation Program providers regulated by TEQSA. This enables the Agency to undertake tailored, risk-based regulatory processes for these providers. The request has been shaped through consultation with representatives from peak bodies and focuses on key financial and staff information. Any questions about the process can be directed to collections@teqsa.gov.au.

**This request for information does not apply to higher education providers that already submit data to the Department of Education or TEQSA through the annual PIR.*

Reaccreditation of ELICOS Courses of Study

Between now and end 2014, TEQSA will be assessing all ELICOS courses of study against the ELICOS National Standards. In many instances this will mean that courses will be assessed against the ELICOS National Standards for the first time. This exercise is being undertaken in consultation with each ELICOS provider. If you are unsure about any aspect of this process, please contact your Case Manager.

Annual Report 2012/13

TEQSA's Annual Report for 2012/13 has been tabled in Parliament. An electronic version is available on the TEQSA website at <http://www.teqsa.gov.au/news-publications/annual-reports/2013>. A news item was sent over the website's RSS feed to announce the document's publication - if you would like assistance subscribing to the news feed, please contact comms@teqsa.gov.au.

International engagement

A key aim of TEQSA's International Strategy is to build confidence in the quality of Australian HE by promoting awareness of Australia's regulatory approach, primarily through its relations with overseas regulatory and quality assurance agencies.

An important factor in Australia's competitiveness in the international market is the ability to point to a robust model of regulation, encouraging the recognition of Australian higher education qualifications and supporting student interests in a quality higher education experience.

TEQSA has concluded Memoranda of Cooperation (MoCs) with counterpart agencies in Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and the United Kingdom. Dialogue has been initiated with China, with a particular focus on promoting Chinese understanding of Australia's regulatory framework.

Cooperative activities under these agreements include the exchange of non-confidential information, and initiatives centred on reducing the duplication providers may encounter in meeting domestic and foreign regulatory requirements.

TEQSA has also recently hosted a number of international visitors from Canada, Japan and Brazil.

More information about TEQSA's international strategy is online at <http://www.teqsa.gov.au/about/international-engagement>.

Regulation and Quality Assessment reference group

The Regulation and Quality Assessment group, chaired by Commissioner Dorte Kristoffersen, met in Melbourne on September 20. The group discussed a range of topics including TEQSA's revised material change notification policy, assessment of dual and joint awards, and regulating offshore provision of regulated higher education awards.

Following consideration by the group, two information papers were published on the updated 'Provider resources' page on the TEQSA website, at <http://teqsa.gov.au/for-providers/frequently-asked-questions-providers>.

TEQSA's consultative Reference Groups provide sector feedback and advice on the Agency's key regulatory processes, regulatory risk and information collection.

External experts workshops

Throughout August and September, TEQSA held workshops in Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Sydney and Melbourne to meet over 250 members of its register of experts.

The workshops gave TEQSA the chance to clarify expectations and requirements of experts, to share good practice, and to demonstrate the online External Experts portal. Experts can access the portal by visiting <https://dss.teqsa.gov.au/eeportal>.

A tutorial 'walkthrough' of the portal is on TEQSA's YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/TEQSAnews>.

If you would like to apply to join the register of experts, or have questions about how TEQSA uses external experts, please email experts@teqsa.gov.au.

National CRICOS Registration

The Provider Registration and International Students Management System (PRISMS) is now able to capture the National Registration of providers' multiple CRICOS entities. If you are interested in combining your multiple state and territory CRICOS entities, please speak to your Case Manager, who will work with you to plan and facilitate the move to National Registration.

Frequently asked questions about TEQSA and the AQF

Following discussions with individual providers and discussions at the recent Australian Qualification Framework Council (AQFC) briefings, TEQSA is currently preparing an updated version of its frequently asked questions document.

The new version of the FAQs will be made available on the TEQSA website's 'provider resources' page in the near future.

New content on www.teqsa.gov.au

TEQSA regularly publishes new information on its website to explain aspects of TEQSA's regulatory approach and practice. New content includes:

- ▶ information about TEQSA's reform agenda
<http://www.teqsa.gov.au/regulatory-approach/reform-and-continuous-improvement>
- ▶ updated 'Conditions' page
<http://teqsa.gov.au/for-providers/provider-obligations/conditions>
- ▶ updated 'Material changes' page to reflect new processes
<http://teqsa.gov.au/for-providers/provider-obligations/material-changes>
- ▶ revised 'Frequently asked questions-providers' page – now renamed 'Provider resources'
<http://teqsa.gov.au/for-providers/frequently-asked-questions-providers>.
- ▶ updated 'For students' page

<http://www.teqsa.gov.au/for-students>

- ▶ expanded 'International engagement' page
<http://www.teqsa.gov.au/about/international-engagement>
- ▶ new page: 'Review of TEQSA decisions'
<http://teqsa.gov.au/for-providers/provider-obligations/review-teqsa-decisions>
- ▶ new page: 'Courses in teach-out'
<http://teqsa.gov.au/for-providers/course-accreditation/teach-out>
- ▶ revised 'Complaints' page
<http://www.teqsa.gov.au/complaints>

A number of information papers, information sheets and FAQ documents have been added to the 'Provider resources' page since the last TEQSA Update, including:

- ▶ regulation of third party arrangements
- ▶ good practice resources for providers
- ▶ assessment of joint/dual awards
- ▶ regulation of offshore provision of regulated HE awards
- ▶ ELICOS regulation (FAQs)
- ▶ approach to financial assessment
- ▶ shortening or cancelling registration
- ▶ shortening or cancelling accreditation
- ▶ international providers in Australia

If you have suggestions for topics that would be of broad interest to the higher education sector, please email comms@teqsa.gov.au.

TEQSA is committed to working closely with all providers. If you have any particular questions or concerns you wish to discuss, please contact your Case Manager, or email enquiries@teqsa.gov.au.