# Renewal of course accreditation

## Report on renewal of accreditation of three higher education courses of study offered by Monash College Pty Ltd

**TEQSA has determined, under Section 56 of the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011* (the TEQSA Act), to renew accreditation of the following higher education courses of study offered by Monash College Pty Ltd for a period of seven years until 30 May 2020:**

- **Diploma of Business**
- **Diploma of Engineering**
- **Diploma of Art and Design**

## Background to Decision

Monash College Pty Ltd submitted an application for renewal of accreditation of three courses of study under Part 4 of the TEQSA Act. Subsection 45(4) of the TEQSA Act requires a registered higher education provider who is not authorised to self-accredit the course of study to apply to TEQSA for accreditation. Subsection 56(4) enables TEQSA to renew accreditation of a course of study for a period not exceeding seven years.

## Main Reasons for the Decision

TEQSA has determined that the three higher education courses of study submitted by Monash College Pty Ltd for accreditation comply with the Provider Course Accreditation Standards and the Qualification Standards. The course accreditation covers delivery at all Australian sites and sites in Indonesia, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

## Purpose of this report

The objects of the TEQSA Act (as listed at Section 3) include to:

- protect and enhance:
    - Australia's reputation for quality higher education and training services; and
    - Australia's international competitiveness in the higher education sector; and
    - excellence, diversity and innovation in higher education in Australia
- protect students undertaking, or proposing to undertake, higher education in Australia by requiring the provision of quality higher education
- ensure students undertaking, or proposing to undertake, higher education, have access to information relating to higher education in Australia.

Reports on TEQSA's determinations contribute to meeting these objects by making its regulatory decisions and actions publicly available. This report provides information about the provider, the renewal of course accreditation process and the main reasons for TEQSA's decision.

## Background

TEQSA is Australia's regulatory and quality agency for higher education. TEQSA's primary aim is to ensure that students receive a high quality education at any Australian higher education provider. The TEQSA Act provides the legislative basis for TEQSA's powers and functions, which include: (a) registration and renewal of registration of higher education providers; and (b) accreditation of courses of study delivered by registered higher education providers without self-accrediting authority. TEQSA's regulatory decisions are made in accordance with relevant requirements of the:

1.  TEQSA Act, available at:  http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2011C00582

2.  Threshold Standards (as defined by the TEQSA Act), which include the *Provider Registration Standards, the Provider Category Standards, the Provider Course Accreditation Standards, and the Qualification Standards*, available at: http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2012L00003/Download.

Section 13 of the TEQSA Act sets out three basic principles for regulation which TEQSA must comply with when exercising a power under the Act in relation to a regulated entity:

1.     regulatory necessity

2.     reflecting risk

3.     proportionate regulation.

Section 196 of the TEQSA Act provides that TEQSA may disclose to the public higher education information that relates to anything done, or omitted to be done, under the Act. Paragraph 134(1)(e) gives TEQSA the function to "collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate information relating to" higher education providers, awards, quality assurance practice and quality improvement in higher education and the Higher Education Standards Framework."

The main steps in TEQSA's renewal of course accreditation process are summarised at *Attachment 1.*

# Attachment 1

## Summary of TEQSA's renewal of course accreditation process

### Submission of Application

- An application for renewal of a higher education course of study (AQF Qualification) must be in the approved form and accompanied by the required fee.

### Completeness Check

- Upon receipt of the application and required fee, TEQSA undertakes a completeness check of the application to ensure it is complete. TEQSA will notify the provider, normally within 30 days of receipt of the application, of requirements for any further information, documents or assistance.

### Substantive Assessment

- In accordance with Subsection 56(2) of the TEQSA Act, TEQSA undertakes a substantive assessment, which may include site visits to the provider's delivery locations and/or involvement of external experts. If an external expert is used, the applicant will be given an opportunity to identify potential conflicts of interest.
- TEQSA may request further information, documents and assistance during the substantive assessment process.

### Summary of findings

- Following the substantive assessment, if the findings recommend rejecting the application for renewal of accreditation, or approving it with conditions on accreditation, the provider will be sent a summary of findings and any relevant evidence not previously seen by the provider.
- The provider is given an opportunity to comment on the summary of findings before a decision is made on the application by TEQSA.

### Final Decision

- Within 30 days of TEQSA making a decision to grant or reject the renewal of accreditation application, the provider will be sent a notice of decision and a draft public report about the decision. The provider is given up to 28 days in which to provide feedback on the draft report. If the application is approved, the notification will include the period for which accreditation is renewed and any conditions, as applicable.
- Where an application has been rejected, or where conditions have been imposed on accreditation, the notification will be accompanied by a statement of reasons.

### Public Report and National Register update

- Where accreditation is granted, the provider's details will be updated on the National Register of Higher Education Providers in accordance with the National Register Guidelines. Any details about a decision to impose conditions will only be included at the end of the period for applying for review of the decision to impose conditions, or at the end of the review process.
- A public report on TEQSA's decision and the reasons for the decision will be published on the National Register following consideration of any feedback from the provider and, where relevant, at the conclusion of the period for applying for review of the decision.