



MEDIA RELEASE

New report shows increased number of applications under assessment by national regulator

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The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) has released its quarterly report highlighting a spike in the number of prospective providers under substantive assessment by the agency.

The report, *Prospective higher education providers update*, shows a 40 per cent increase in prospective providers under substantive assessment in Q3 2016/17 compared to the previous quarter.

Reporting on data captured on 31 March 2017, the report also highlights sustained interest from registered training organisations (RTO) in joining the higher education sector, with 71 per cent of applications received in the reported quarter identifying as an RTO.

Unlike applications from registered higher education providers where a core set of standards are examined, prospective new entrants must be able to satisfy the requirements of the full Higher Education Standards Framework prior to registration.

TEQSA CEO Anthony McClaran said that this requirement allows TEQSA to thoroughly assess any new entry to sector; ensuring student interests and the strong reputation of Australia's higher education sector are sustained.

"Another continuing trend highlighted in this release of the *Prospective higher education providers update*, shows management and commerce courses continuing to feature heavily in proposed/submitted course accreditation applications," Mr. McClaran said.

The *Prospective higher education providers update* aims to provide timely information on the number of potential entrants being assessed by TEQSA to deliver higher education in Australia.

The report is available for download from TEQSA's website at:

<http://www.teqsa.gov.au/media-publications/prospective-higher-education-providers-report-january-march-2017>