



Friday, 12 March 2021

Dear

Implementation of Provider Category Standards reform

As you know, the Australian Parliament last month passed the Higher Education Legislation Amendment (Provider Category Standards and Other Measures) Bill 2020.

The Bill gives effect to the Australian Government's decision to implement all 10 recommendations arising from the [Provider Category Standards review](#) conducted in 2019.

These important changes simplify and enhance the categorisation of higher education providers in Australia, ensuring that the Provider Category Standards remain fit for purpose in Australia's evolving higher education landscape.

As part of these changes the six current provider categories will be replaced by four:

- from Higher Education Provider to Institute of Higher Education
- from Australian University and Australian University of Specialisation to Australian University
- from Overseas University and Overseas University of Specialisation to Overseas University in Australia
- University College (a new category)

TEQSA will advise you once the new standards have been made by the Minister.

Transitioning to the new standards

TEQSA is now working to implement these reforms, with the expectation that the updated categories will take effect from 1 July 2021.

For the great majority of registered providers, the transition to the new categories will be straightforward, for example, those in the university categories. Similarly, we expect that for existing Higher Education Providers who do not have self-accrediting authority, the process will involve a simple transition to the new Institute of Higher Education category.

There are, however, a dozen or so providers for whom the situation requires very careful consideration. This group includes the sole institution within the existing Australian University College category and those Higher Education Providers with self-accrediting authority.

Self-accrediting authority is one of a number of criteria that must be met in order to be awarded entry to the new University College category. TEQSA will therefore adopt a merit-based assessment process to consider those seeking categorisation as a University College.

Specifically, Higher Education Providers with self-accrediting authority who wish to be categorised as a University College by 1 July 2021 will need to make a submission against all University College criteria to TEQSA. Details of this process will be shared with these providers in the next few days. This process also will involve those two or three providers who have already lodged category change applications.

More information about the Provider Category Standards reform and the transition process is available on the TEQSA website.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact your case manager or email categorychange@teqsa.gov.au.

We look forward to working with all providers to complete a successful transition to the updated Provider Category Standards, supporting the continued high quality and reputation of Australian higher education.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Coaldrake', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Professor Peter Coaldrake AO
Chief Commissioner