



Australian Government

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

TEQSA fees and charges consultation

September 2025

TEQSA

Why we're seeking your feedback

On 1 January 2023, TEQSA implemented an increased cost recovery model in line with the [Australian Government Cost Recovery Policy](#).

In 2025, TEQSA is conducting a review of proposed changes to ensure:

- our fees and charges align with the legal and policy requirements of the Australian Government
- our cost recovery model reflects our budget and resource allocation for 2025-26.

TEQSA is seeking your feedback on the changes we're proposing in light of this review.

Feedback gathered from this current consultation may also assist TEQSA in further improving cost recovery processes over the longer term.

Summary of proposed changes

Since implementing cost recovery, TEQSA continues to strengthen its delivery of our regulatory and quality assurance services to the sector.

TEQSA is proposing an updated version of the Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) with adjustments to our fees and charges to take effect on 1 January 2026.

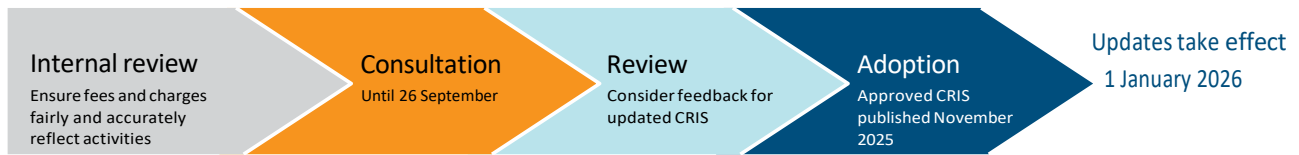
TEQSA's total regulatory costs have increased as a result of costs attributable to TEQSA's new provider case management system and increases to TEQSA's employee expenditure and information technology software.

After the CRIS was published in December 2024, TEQSA received \$7.6 million through the 2024-25 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) to update its provider case management system to meet essential whole-of-government information security requirements. In line with the requirement to recover regulatory costs, it is proposed this measure will be recovered over 4 years from 2025-26, under TEQSA's cost recovery arrangements, and as such forms part of this consultation on the 2025 CRIS. It is proposed \$1.9 million will be recovered each year to avoid placing significant financial burden on higher education providers in any single year. It is proposed this amount be split between an increase to application-based fees and the Registered Higher Education Provider (RHEP) charge, based on TEQSA's review of its workloads to ensure accurate distribution costs.

TEQSA is undertaking work to improve its regulatory systems and processes, and to enhance its systems and efficiencies to support ongoing reforms to the higher education sector. To do this, TEQSA is developing and sustaining a fit-for-purpose and secure provider case management system to manage TEQSA's core regulatory and quality assurance functions. The investment in the provider case management system is designed to reduce regulatory burden on higher education providers, and streamline TEQSA's core processes, enhance data analytics and improve regulatory outcomes across the agency.

Examples which illustrate the projected impact of the RHEP charge changes are provided at Appendix A, proposed increases to compliance charges are provided at Appendix B, and the proposed increase to fees are provided at Appendix C.

Consultation and timelines



Feedback on the proposed changes outlined in this consultation paper is open until **5:00pm (AEST) on Friday 26 September 2025**. You can make a submission by email to costrecovery@teqsa.gov.au.

Questions?

If you have any questions about this consultation process or the proposed changes to fees and charges, you can email us at costrecovery@teqsa.gov.au. We will update any frequently asked questions on our website at teqsa.gov.au/costrecovery.

After feedback closes

Once feedback closes, TEQSA will consider all submissions and make our final fees and charges recommendations to the Minister for Education.

TEQSA will also consider sector feedback to inform our future work and streamline our processes.

Once we have approval on our final fees and charges for 2026, we will release this information through TEQSA's updated CRIS.

We will directly inform all registered providers of this updated version of the CRIS and publish updated information on our website. Our website will also inform you once the relevant legislative instruments have been amended to reflect the updated CRIS.

The fees and charges set out in the updated version of the CRIS will take effect from 1 January 2026. Invoices for the RHEP charge are expected to be issued in early 2026 – further information about this process will be shared with providers later this year.

Proposed changes to TEQSA's fees and charges

Registered higher education provider (RHEP) charge

Since 1 January 2023, all higher education providers have been required to pay the annual RHEP charge.

The RHEP charge is the sum of:

- a base component, which enables TEQSA to recover costs for delivering regulatory services that benefit the sector that cannot be attributed to individual providers, and
- a compliance component that recovers the cost of compliance activities undertaken by TEQSA in relation to the provider in the preceding calendar year.

The base component includes 2 elements:

- costs for outputs which are allocated equally across all registered higher education providers
- costs which are allocated based on provider size, where the provider's size is likely to determine the proportion of activity which relates to the provider.

Figure 1: An illustration of the composition of the registered higher education provider (RHEP) charge



RHEP charge: proposed changes to the base and compliance component

Following TEQSA's review of its regulatory costs and resource allocation, our total regulatory costs have increased, with key components increasing relating to the provider case management system, TEQSA's employee expenditure and information technology software that will be added to the total expenditure. Accordingly, TEQSA will be required to increase the amount of the base component that is allocated equally amongst providers and the amount which is allocated based on provider size.

TEQSA is proposing increases to all compliance charges by approximately 10% to reflect costs associated with our updated provider case management system. The lowest compliance charge increase will be \$125, and the largest compliance charge increase will be \$3,600. The increase in compliance charges have been apportioned based on the cost of TEQSA's new provider case management system.

The final amount each provider will pay is dependent on how many providers are registered with TEQSA on 1 January in the relevant year when the charge is calculated and the provider's EFTSL. TEQSA is currently in the process of finalising the collection of this data. Appendix A to this consultation paper provides an illustration of how the changes may affect providers.

Appendix B to this consultation paper shows the proposed compliance charges changes from 1 January 2026.

Proposed changes to application fees

Application-based fees apply for TEQSA's regulatory services such as applications for registration, course accreditation and ESOS Act-related applications. Application-based fees have not increased since 1 January 2024.

TEQSA is proposing increases to all application-based fees by approximately 10% to reflect costs associated with our updated provider case management system. The lowest application increase will be \$100, and the largest application increase will be \$12,200. The increase in application fees has been apportioned based on the cost of TEQSA's new provider case management system.

TEQSA wants to flag there is an ongoing review into its processes for all applications, which is expected to be published in the 2026 version of the CRIS.

Appendix C to this consultation paper shows the proposed fee changes from 1 January 2026.

Discounts for providers with an EFTSL of 5,000 or less

TEQSA is not proposing any adjustments to the discounts on certain application-based fee rates for providers with an equivalent full-time student load (EFTSL) of 5,000 or less in 2025. Providers with an EFTSL of 5,000 or less will continue to be eligible for discounts of up to 70% on some course accreditation fees.

Appendix A – examples of proposed changes to the base component of the RHEP charge

In these examples, TEQSA has made the following assumptions:

1. Number of registered providers: 211 on 1 January 2025 (actual figure), 219 on 1 January 2026 (projected based on actual figure at 1 August 2025).
2. Total sector EFTSL: 1,160,340.00 (tentative 2024 figure, TEQSA has assumed a 5% increase in EFTSL compared to the 2023 data while the 2024 data is pending).

The examples only illustrate changes to the base component of the RHEP charge, as this applies to all providers. All providers will have to pay an additional \$6,695 on the base component of the RHEP charge, and the variable charge will be dependent on the size of the providers EFTSL.

Example 1

Provider A is a university with 22,000 EFTSL. It would pay more for the RHEP charge, because of the increase in the base component payable for all providers. Provider A also has a relatively larger number of EFTSL than other providers, which means that the variable component increases from \$22,456 to \$42,850.

	RHEP charge – base component for all providers	RHEP charge – variable component based on EFTSL	Total
2025 RHEP charge	\$27,967	\$22,456	\$50,423
2026 RHEP charge (projected)	\$34,662	\$42,850	\$77,512
Variance	\$6,695	\$20,394	\$27,089

Example 2

Provider B is a university college with 5,500 EFTSL. It would pay more for the RHEP charge, because of the increase in the base component payable for all providers. Because its EFTSL is 5,500, the variable component of the RHEP charge would increase by \$5,098.

	RHEP charge – base component for all providers	RHEP charge – variable component based on EFTSL	Total
2025 RHEP charge	\$27,967	\$5,614	\$33,581
2026 RHEP charge (projected)	\$34,662	\$10,712	\$45,374
Variance	\$6,695	\$5,098	\$11,793

Example 3

Provider C is a small independent institute of higher education. It would pay more for the RHEP charge, because of the increase in the base component payable for all providers. Because its EFTSL is 1,500, the variable component of the RHEP charge would increase by \$1,391.

	RHEP charge – base component for all providers	RHEP charge – variable component based on EFTSL	Total
2025 RHEP charge	\$27,967	\$1,531	\$29,498
2026 RHEP charge (projected)	\$34,662	\$2,922	\$37,584
Variance	\$6,695	\$1,391	\$8,086

Example 4

Provider D is a new higher education provider, obtaining registration with TEQSA in 2025. As it had no EFTSL in 2024, it is not required to pay anything for the variable component of the RHEP charge in 2025. As the base component payable by all providers has increased, the total RHEP charge has increased by \$6,695.

	RHEP charge – base component for all providers	RHEP charge – variable component based on EFTSL	Total
2025 RHEP charge	\$27,967	-	\$27,967
2026 RHEP charge (projected)	\$34,662	-	\$34,662
Variance	\$6,695	-	\$6,695

Appendix B – proposed charges for the compliance component of the RHEP charge

Compliance charges	Proposed compliance component charge from 1 January 2026	Current compliance component charge
Compliance assessment	\$39,600	\$36,000
Conditions monitoring – registration or re-registration	\$4,500	\$4,100
Conditions monitoring – course accreditation or re-accreditation	\$3,700	\$3,350
Voluntary undertaking	\$1,800	\$1,675
Investigation – hourly rate	\$180 /hour	\$165 /hour

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Appendix C – proposed application-based fees

Fee description	Proposed application fee from 1 January 2026	Current application fee
<u>Registration</u>		
Initial registration – preliminary assessment	\$15,300	\$13,900
Initial registration – substantive assessment	\$116,500	\$105,900
Registration renewal – Core	\$68,600	\$62,400
Registration renewal – Core+	\$117,400	\$106,700
Registration renewal and self- accreditation – Core	\$77,900	\$70,800
Registration renewal and self-accreditation – Core+	\$134,200	\$122,000
Provider category change	\$53,800	\$48,900
Registration under the ESOS Act	\$25,500	\$23,200
Re-registration under the ESOS Act – self-accrediting authority	\$14,100	\$12,800
Re-registrations under the ESOS Act – non self-accrediting authority	\$28,600	\$26,000
ESOS Act relocate site for provider without self-accrediting authority resulting in a reduction in cost	\$10,000	\$9,100
ESOS Act relocate site for provider with self-accrediting authority	\$2,000	\$1,800
Add additional ELICOS course to ESOS Act registration	\$5,300	\$4,800
Add additional Foundation course to ESOS Act registration	\$5,400	\$4,900
Add additional course to ESOS Act registration	\$600	\$500
<u>Course accreditation</u>		
Application to self-accredit one or more courses – no current authority	\$53,800	\$48,900
Application to self-accredit one or more courses – existing authority for 1 or more courses	\$38,200	\$34,700
Course accreditation preliminary assessment (proposed provider) – first	\$6,200	\$5,600
Course accreditation substantive assessment (proposed provider) – first	\$46,400	\$42,200
Course accreditation substantive assessment (proposed provider) – additional in a nested set of courses per application	\$41,500	\$37,700
Course accreditation preliminary assessment (registered provider) – first	\$5,400	\$4,900
Course accreditation preliminary assessment (registered provider) – additional in a nested set of courses per application	\$1,300	\$1,200
Course accreditation substantive assessment (registered provider) – first	\$19,800	\$18,000
Course accreditation substantive assessment (registered provider) – additional in a nested set of courses per application	\$5,000	\$4,500
Undergraduate certificate accreditation – preliminary assessment	\$300	\$300
Undergraduate certificate accreditation – substantive assessment	\$1,300	\$1,200
Renewal of course accreditation general – first	\$25,400	\$23,100
Renewal of course accreditation general – additional in a nested set of courses per application	\$6,100	\$5,500
Renewal of course accreditation teach out – first	\$3,200	\$2,900
Renewal of course accreditation teach out – additional in a nested set of courses per application	\$800	\$700
Renewal of undergraduate certificate accreditation	\$1,200	\$1,100
<u>Conditions</u>		
Vary or revoke condition – accreditation condition	\$3,200	\$2,900
Vary or revoke condition – registration condition	\$4,000	\$3,600
<u>Course accreditation</u>		
Internal review of decision	\$1,100	\$1,000

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teqsa.gov.au