



Australian Government

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

TEQSA fees and charges consultation

October 2026

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 2026, TEQSA is reviewing our cost recovery model to ensure:

- our fees and charges continue to align with the legal and policy requirements of the Australian Government
- our cost recovery model reflects our budget and resource allocation for 2026-27.

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, the regulatory landscape for the higher education sector has continued to change and with it TEQSA continues to strengthen the delivery of our regulatory and quality assurance activities 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 2027.

As set out in the 2026-27 Budget, the total regulatory costs TEQSA is required to recover in 2027 increases to support strengthening TEQSA's powers to step in and act when it is justified in the public interest. This includes TEQSA's work to support Australian Government commitments in response to concerns about governance and racism, ensuring Australian higher education providers meet the standards students, staff and the community expect.

To better respond to risks facing the sector, TEQSA will receive \$9.631 million in funding between 2026-27 to 2029-30. In line with the requirement to recover costs for regulatory activities, TEQSA will cost recover these funds in line with the financial year the funding is received, and as such the additional funding granted in the Federal Budget form part of this consultation on the 2026 CRIS.

TEQSA is consulting on 3 changes to TEQSA's RHEP charge in this current round of consultation, which reflects the additional budget allocation to TEQSA.

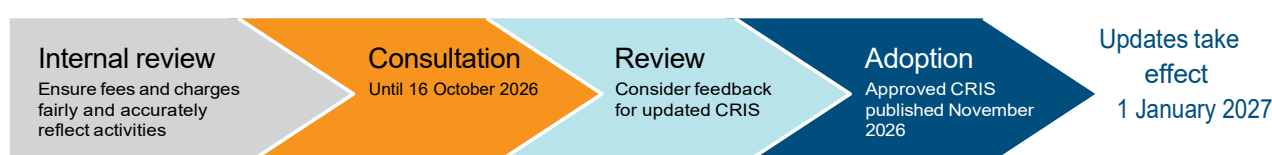
1. TEQSA is proposing to allocate budget measure costs to the component of the RHEP charge which is divided proportionately based on Equivalent Full-Time Student Load (EFTSL). The final amount each provider will pay is dependent on how many providers are registered with TEQSA on 1 January in the relevant year when the charge is calculated, and the provider's EFTSL.
2. TEQSA is introducing a two-tiered approach to compliance assessments, accreditation assessments and ESOS compliance audits. TEQSA commences these assessments to assess whether a higher education provider continues to meet the requirements of the *Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021* (Threshold Standards) or the *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000* (ESOS Act). Currently the same charge is payable for such an assessment, irrespective of the time, intensity or scope of that assessment. A two-tiered approach allows TEQSA to more accurately recover the costs of individual assessments. This will mean assessments which are simpler will result in a lower fee for the relevant provider, and more complex assessments will attract a higher fee, more accurately reflecting TEQSA's regulatory efforts in the recovered costs.

- TEQSA proposes to introduce a new charge for 'quality assessments' undertaken under s60 of the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Act 2011* (TEQSA Act). Quality assessments include assessing the level of the provider's quality of higher education in general or in relation to a particular course of study. This charge will allow TEQSA to recover the costs associated with the completion of quality assessments undertaken under s60 of the TEQSA Act to the specific provider.

TEQSA is not proposing any other changes to its application-based fees.

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

Consultation and timelines



Feedback on the proposed changes outlined in this consultation paper is open until 5:00pm (AEST) on Friday 16 October 2026. Please submit your feedback 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 2027, we will release this information through TEQSA's updated CRIS. This is expected around December 2026.

We will directly inform all providers of this updated version of the CRIS on our website. Our website will also publish the relevant legislative instruments once they 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 2027. Invoices for the RHEP charge are expected to be issued in early 2027. 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 charge

Since 1 January 2023, all 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 activities that benefit the sector that cannot be attributed to individual providers
- a compliance component that recovers the cost of compliance activities undertaken by TEQSA in relation to a specific provider in the preceding calendar year.

The base component includes 2 elements:

- costs for outputs which are allocated equally across all 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 charge



RHEP charge: Proposed changes to the base and compliance component

TEQSA's total regulatory costs have increased to reflect the additional funding provided to TEQSA in the 2026 Budget.

Total regulatory costs in 2027 increase to support strengthening TEQSA's powers to step in and act when it is justified in the public interest. Additional funds will support TEQSA's work to implement relevant recommendations from the:

- Australian Government response to the Senate Education and Employment Committee report into the quality of governance at Australian higher education providers.
- Australian Government response to the Special Envoy's Plan to Combat Antisemitism.
- Australian Government response to the Special Envoy's National Response to Islamophobia.

The additional regulatory activities will focus on sector-wide risks. The allocation of regulatory effort for these activities will be aligned to provider size.

Accordingly, the budget measure costs have been allocated to the component of the RHEP charge which is divided proportionately based on EFTSL. 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.

Approach to compliance assessments, accreditation assessments and ESOS compliance audits

TEQSA is proposing to amend the way we approach compliance assessments, accreditation assessments and ESOS compliance audits by introducing a two-tiered approach to assessments with 'simple' and 'complex' assessments. Currently the same charge is payable for an assessment, irrespective of the time, intensity or scope of that assessment. This proposed change will mean compliance assessments which are simpler will result in a lower fee for the relevant provider, and more complex assessments will attract a higher fee which more accurately associates recovered costs with TEQSA's regulatory efforts. An assessment will be classified as 'simple' if it takes 275 hours or less to complete; while assessments that take more than 275 hours to complete will be classified as 'complex'. This will apply to assessments undertaken relating to compliance with the requirements of the Threshold Standards or the ESOS Act.

Where TEQSA commenced an assessment in a calendar year prior to 2027, the previous approach to charging will remain. For compliance assessments commenced in 2027 or later, the charge will be applied in the year after the assessment was completed to allow the correct charge to be applied.

New charge for quality assessments

TEQSA proposes to introduce a new charge for 'quality assessments' undertaken under s60 of the TEQSA Act. This charge will allow TEQSA to recover the costs associated with the completion of quality assessments undertaken under s60 of the TEQSA Act in relation to a specific provider. Where TEQSA undertakes a quality assessment in relation to a thematic risk that applies to multiple providers, these providers will not be subject to a specific charge in relation to this assessment.

Quality assessments in relation to a specific provider may review or examine any aspect of a provider's operations. This includes assessing the level of the provider's quality of higher education in general or in relation to a particular course of study.

Appendix B to this consultation paper shows the proposed compliance charges changes from 1 January 2027.

No changes to application fees or to discounts to providers with an EFTSL of 5,000 or less

TEQSA considers that our application fees reflect the costs of the activities relevant to those fees. As such, TEQSA does not propose any changes to application fees in 2027.

TEQSA is not proposing any adjustments to the discounts on certain application-based fee rates for providers with an EFTSL of 5,000 or less in 2027. 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 components of the RHEP charge

In these examples, TEQSA has made the following assumptions:

1. Number of registered providers: 217 on 1 January 2026 (actual figure), 227 on 1 January 2027 (projected based on actual figure at 1 July 2026).
2. Total sector EFTSL: 1,198,055.20 for 2024 (actual), 1,317,861.00 (tentative 2025 figure, TEQSA has assumed a 10% increase in EFTSL compared to the 2024 data while the 2025 data is pending).

Examples 1 – 4 illustrate changes to the base component of the RHEP charge, as this applies to all providers. Based on the above assumptions, all providers are expected to pay \$599 less on the base component of the RHEP charge which is divided equally for all providers, and the variable charge will be dependent on the size of the provider's EFTSL.

Example 5 illustrates when a quality assessment charge would apply.

Example 1

Provider A is a university with 22,000 EFTSL. There is a decrease in the base component payable for all providers. However, provider A also has a relatively larger number of EFTSL than other providers, which means that the variable component increases from \$41,501 to \$85,372. Therefore, it would pay a higher RHEP charge.

	RHEP charge – base component for all providers	RHEP charge – variable component based on EFTSL	Total
2026 RHEP charge	\$34,982	\$41,501	\$76,483
2027 RHEP charge (projected)	\$34,383	\$85,372	\$119,755
Variance	(\$599)	\$43,871	\$43,272

Example 2

Provider B is a university college with 5,500 EFTSL. It would pay a higher total RHEP charge, because the decrease in the base component payable for all providers is less than the increase of the variable component. Therefore, the RHEP charge would increase by \$10,369.

	RHEP charge – base component for all providers	RHEP charge – variable component based on EFTSL	Total
2026 RHEP charge	\$34,982	\$10,375	\$45,357
2027 RHEP charge (projected)	\$34,383	\$21,343	\$55,726
Variance	(\$599)	\$10,968	\$10,369

Example 3

Provider C is a small independent institute of higher education. It would pay a lower base RHEP charge. Because its EFTSL is 1,500, the variable component of the RHEP charge would increase by \$2,991.

	RHEP charge – base component for all providers	RHEP charge – variable component based on EFTSL	Total
2026 RHEP charge	\$34,982	\$2,830	\$37,812
2027 RHEP charge (projected)	\$34,383	\$5,821	\$40,204
Variance	(\$599)	\$2,991	\$2,392

Example 4

Provider D is a new higher education provider, obtaining registration with TEQSA in 2026. As it had no EFTSL in 2025, 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 decreased, it will pay less compared to the RHEP charge in 2026.

	RHEP charge – base component for all providers	RHEP charge – variable component based on EFTSL	Total
2026 RHEP charge	\$34,982	-	\$34,982
2027 RHEP charge (projected)	\$34,383	-	\$34,383
Variance	(\$599)	-	(\$599)

Example 5

Provider E has been identified for a provider-specific quality assessment. TEQSA has identified information that warrants further assessment of the quality of a particular aspect of the higher education provided by Provider E.

As the quality assessment relates specifically to Provider E, a \$22,000 quality assessment charge applies in addition to Provider E's total annual RHEP charge.

If TEQSA instead undertook a quality assessment to examine a systemic issue across a sample of providers, including Provider E, it would not incur the \$22,000 charge because it formed a part of that broader assessment.

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

Compliance charges	Current compliance component charge	Proposed compliance component charge from 1 January 2027
Compliance assessment (complex)	\$39,600	\$60,000
Compliance assessment (simple)	\$39,600	\$28,000
Accreditation assessment (complex)	\$39,600	\$60,000
Accreditation assessment (simple)	\$39,600	\$28,000
ESOS compliance audit (complex)	\$39,600	\$60,000
ESOS compliance audit (simple)	\$39,600	\$28,000
Quality assessment	-	\$22,000
Conditions monitoring – registration or re-registration	\$4,500	\$4,500
Conditions monitoring – course accreditation or re-accreditation	\$3,700	\$3,700
Compliance undertaking	\$1,800	\$1,800
Investigation – hourly rate	\$180 /hour	\$180 /hour

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teqsa.gov.au