



Tuesday, 8 June 2021

Dear

Proposed decision about [Institution name]'s provider category

As I advised in my email of 12 March 2021, TEQSA is implementing the Provider Category Standard reforms after the Australian Parliament passed the *Higher Education Legislation Amendment (Provider Category Standards and Other Measures) Bill 2020*.

These reforms were reflected in the updated [Higher Education Standards Framework \(Threshold Standards\) 2021](#) legislative instrument, which was published on the Federal Register of Legislation on 27 April 2021. The main change in the 2021 Threshold Standards is the updating of the Provider Category Standards to incorporate recommendations from the [2019 review](#). As a result of the update, 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
- University College (a new category)

TEQSA expects the new standards will commence on 1 July 2021. We will inform the sector once the commencement date is confirmed.

#### **Proposed decision about the category change for [Institution name]**

As [Institution name] is presently classified as a Higher Education Provider, and does not have the self-accrediting authority required for consideration against other categories, TEQSA proposes to make the decision to register [Institution name] as an Institute of Higher Education, following the commencement of the 2021 Threshold Standards.

TEQSA will be making this decision under s38(1)(a) of the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011* (TEQSA Act), which enables TEQSA, on its own initiative, to change the provider category in which a higher education provider is registered. You do not need to make a submission for this category change.

Please note that based on the minimal changes to Part A of the 2021 Threshold Standards, we do not anticipate that the commencement of these standards will have any substantial impact on in progress assessments for accreditation, re-accreditation, re-registration or applications to vary/revoke conditions. You can also continue to use the confirmed evidence tables already provided for planning purposes, and the current online forms. We will inform the sector when the explanatory note of the key changes between the 2015 and 2021 Threshold Standards is published, as well as when we release updated application guides, online forms and confirmed evidence tables.

As you may be aware from the latest TEQSA e-News, I am conducting a webinar on the Provider Category Standards on Thursday 10 June 2021 from 1-1.45 pm (AEST), and invite you to join me. You can find out more and [register here](#).

Please note that additional information is available on the [Provider Category Standards](#) reform page on the TEQSA website. For further questions about the reform or the proposed decision, please contact Elizabeth Cole, Assistant Director Planning and Quality, Regulatory Operations, at [categorychange@teqsa.gov.au](mailto:categorychange@teqsa.gov.au).

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

8 June 2021