



TEQSA update

JULY 2014

TEQSA updates are for higher education and ELICOS providers and contain information about TEQSA's regulatory framework, policies and processes as well as upcoming events.

Regulatory developments

New process guides and online forms for renewal of registration and accreditation/ renewal of accreditation

TEQSA has released its streamlined approach to applications for renewal of registration, accreditation of a new course of study and renewal of accreditation for an existing course of study.

New process guides for these regulatory activities are available on the TEQSA 'application forms and guides' webpage, and new online application forms for these processes are on the new TEQSA provider portal. All remaining forms and guides will be reviewed and updated during 2014.

The process guides are available on a trial basis until the end of December 2014. During this period, TEQSA is seeking feedback from providers to ensure the process guides are clear and useful.

If you have feedback on the process guides, please email it to your Case Manager. Any changes will be made at the end of the consultation period and final versions uploaded at that stage.

Provider portal

The new TEQSA online provider portal is now live. The portal allows providers to work progressively on TEQSA and CRICOS applications, upload documents and links as evidence, and submit multiple applications to TEQSA.

The portal also acts as a document repository that allows providers to submit documents over a period of time, and reuse documents already submitted to TEQSA as part of other applications or information requests.

The new portal is being gradually rolled out and is accompanied by training by TEQSA staff. Access is given on a priority basis to providers who have applications due in the short to medium term. Access to the provider portal is by login only. Case Managers will supply login and password details as required.

It is important to remember that Case Managers remain the main point of provider contact with TEQSA. Make sure you get in touch with your Case Manager to discuss if you require access to the portal, or to clarify which application to use.

TEQSA and the AQF

TEQSA has updated its question and answer document about the work of the Agency and its relationship with the AQF. This update follows discussions with the sector and the Australian Qualification Framework Council and incorporates changes made by the AQFC to Masters Coursework specifications.

The revised document is available for download from the 'Accreditation and registration' section of the updated provider resources page at <http://teqsa.gov.au/for-providers/provider-resources>.

Publications and Consultations: TEQSA guidance notes

TEQSA has released two guidance notes, one on Academic leadership and one on Scholarship. These are the first two in a suite of guidance notes, available on the 'Current consultations' page of the TEQSA website. The third – academic quality assurance – will be published shortly.

Guidance notes are intended to provide greater clarity for providers in the interpretation and application of selected standards. They draw on TEQSA's regulatory experience to date and sector practice. Guidance notes do not introduce any new requirements of providers and it is important to note that these documents are not instructional or 'how to' documents.

The Agency is keen to draw on broader views from the sector on the guidance notes. All guidance notes will be open for comment for a period of three months from their publication on the TEQSA website. The consultation period for the 'Academic leadership' and 'Scholarship' guidance notes runs until close of business Wednesday, 3 September 2014.

Ongoing provider feedback

As part of its commitment to ongoing provider feedback, the Agency is asking providers to complete a brief online survey about their regulatory experiences. This survey will also help TEQSA understand the time taken in completing regulatory applications.

Providers can access the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RegulatoryFeedback>. Providers who have recently completed a regulatory process with TEQSA are encouraged to complete the survey if they have not yet done so.

Provider feedback assists TEQSA to improve processes and better focus the guidance we can offer providers with regulatory processes.

Sector engagement

Meetings with sector peak bodies

TEQSA recently met with members of sector peak bodies - Universities Australia, ACPET, TDA, COPHE and English Australia. The discussions at these meetings are beneficial to TEQSA's operations and understanding of the issues facing the sector and providers.

Members of TEQSA's Regulation and Review Group recently participated in a workshop organised by the Pathways Special Interest Group, which includes providers of Foundation Programs, providing advice on TEQSA's regulatory approach and receiving feedback on issues facing the sector.

TEQSA is committed to working closely with all providers. If providers have any particular questions or matters they wish to discuss, TEQSA Case Managers are always available.

International engagement

TEQSA signs MoC with NIAD-UE

TEQSA signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE), Japan in May this year. The agreement between the Agencies is designed to enhance regulation and quality assurance in both jurisdictions and contribute to the improvement of the quality of higher education in Australia and Japan.

Details of TEQSA's international work and its agreements with overseas agencies can be found on the TEQSA website at <http://teqsa.gov.au/about/international-engagement>.

Register of experts update

The 'Register of experts' page on the TEQSA website has been updated. New FAQs and application documents can be downloaded from www.teqsa.gov.au/experts.

Applications for inclusion on the Register are now open on an ongoing basis. Applications can be sent to experts@teqsa.gov.au. TEQSA in particular encourages applications from those whose expertise relates to non-university higher education providers.

The updated experts' portal is also now live. Experts will be given access to the portal as required by job allocation.

Provider Information Request (PIR) update

The 2014 PIR will be sent to relevant providers in early August. TEQSA has continued its commitment to reduce data reporting requirements, while maintaining TEQSA's access to core data necessary for risk-reflective regulation of the sector.

TEQSA aims to make the PIR collection process as clear and streamlined as possible. TEQSA has implemented further improvements to PIR systems and documentation for 2014, guided by feedback received from the sector. Documents for the 2014 PIR will be available online in early August at <http://www.teqsa.gov.au/for-providers/provider-obligations/data-collection>.

Providers with any comments or feedback on the 2014 PIR are encouraged to contact the TEQSA Information Management team by emailing collections@teqsa.gov.au.

TEQSA in numbers:

(Completed regulatory activities from 01/02/2014 to 30/06/2014).

3  initial registrations

59  initial course accreditations

102  renewals of course accreditation

13  renewals of registration

36  renewals of CRICOS registration

You can stay up to date with all the latest TEQSA news, releases and consultations by visiting www.teqsa.gov.au. TEQSA encourages all providers to subscribe to the news feed to get the latest updates delivered directly. For any problems with the website, news feed, or for any topics you would like covered by TEQSA in its communications, please email comms@teqsa.gov.au.