



Australian Government

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency



TEMC

TEQSA Evolving for more effective regulation

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Overview

PART 1

- ▶ How does TEQSA operate?
- ▶ Objectives – Threshold Standards regulatory principles and risk
- ▶ Risk Assessment
- ▶ Reform agenda – what and how



Overview

PART 2

- ▶ Case management model
- ▶ Case Studies - de-regulatory agenda
- ▶ Future directions
- ▶ Questions



What is TEQSA and how does it operate

- ▶ Nationally consistent regulator
- ▶ All higher education providers operating in or from Australia
- ▶ New applicants
- ▶ Overseas students and related legislation
- ▶ Some ELICOS and Foundation Program providers



What is TEQSA and how does it operate

- ▶ Cyclical review
- ▶ We use a standards based framework reflecting our three principles:
 - ▶ Regulatory necessity
 - ▶ Reflecting risk
 - ▶ Proportionate regulation
- ▶ TEQSA Commission as decision makers



What is TEQSA and how does it operate

- ▶ Case Management model
- ▶ Dialogue with the sector
- ▶ Consultation papers, sector updates
- ▶ Information and Guidance Notes



Provider Risk Assessments

- ▶ TEQSA undertakes risk assessments annually and in response to emerging information
- ▶ TEQSA collects information to inform its risk based regulation
- ▶ Table A exempt from the PIR



Provider Risk Assessments

- ▶ Providers have the opportunity to provide additional context / their own risk control information where risks identified
- ▶ A risk assessment does not establish breaches/compliance with the standards
- ▶ Risk thresholds remain internal to TEQSA



How risk informs our assessment

Lower scrutiny (core requirements only)

- Sound HE history
- No significant risks
- No compliance issues
- * Strong external review
- * Existing course/s
- * Established Field
- * Established AQF level

Higher scrutiny (extra requirements if necessary)

- Limited / no HE history
- Significant risks
- Compliance issues
- * Limited external review
- * New course/s
- * New Field
- * New AQF level

**TEQSA
scrutiny will
vary based
on a number
of factors**

** Especially for course accreditation*



TEQSA reform agenda evolving 2.5 years since establishment

TEQSA's own
reform agenda,
experience and
knowledge

Provider and
peak body
feedback

Review of HE
regulation

De-regulation
& Ministerial
Direction

Reforms include:
More differentiation based on history/risk
Less evidence requirements /Faster timeframes

<http://teqsa.gov.au/regulatory-approach/reform-and-continuous-improvement>



TEQSA Reform – to date

- ▶ Reduced risk indicators
- ▶ Revised registration and renewal of registration approach
- ▶ Revised course accreditation and renewal of course accreditation approach
- ▶ Identification of areas of duplication and overlap (TEQSA and Government i.e. ESOS Legislation)



TEQSA Reform – to date

- ▶ Changes to delegations – reduce decision making timeframes
- ▶ Launch of TEQSA portal



Reform - measuring success

- ▶ Reduced turnaround times of all re-registrations and re-accreditations completed between January-June 2014 (equates to **25% reduction**)
- ▶ Reduced evidence requirements (**50% reduction for approx. 70% of providers**) on the basis of risk



Reform - measuring success

- ▶ Administrative load reduced via TEQSA secured portal
- ▶ Case studies to demonstrate this



TEQSA Case Managers

- ▶ Case Management Model and front line regulatory engagement
 - ▶ Case Teams a dedicated point of contact
 - ▶ Case Managers build on TEQSA's regulatory experiences, including enhanced knowledge of each provider
 - ▶ Streamlining and tailoring regulatory requirements – individual providers and proportionate assessment
 - ▶ Provider pre-submission meetings and on-going dialogue
 - ▶ Transparency of regulatory activity



Case Study 1 streamlining legislation

- ▶ University and ELICOS provider
- ▶ Case manager guidance leading to reduced evidence requirements for renewal of CRICOS registration and adding ELICOS courses
- ▶ Existing evidence and case manager knowledge
- ▶ New TEQSA Delegation
- ▶ 1 month turnaround



Case Study 2 reduced timelines

- ▶ Long established Private Provider
- ▶ **January 2014** - case team member pre-submission meeting
- ▶ **May 2014** - application received x 3 courses of study
- ▶ Analysis informed by low risk assessment
- ▶ **August 2014** – finalising report for TEQSA Commission decision (next few weeks)
- ▶ Next re-registration 2021



Case Study 3 provider resources

- ▶ University and CRICOS re-registration
- ▶ Early engagement with TEQSA case manager led to streamlining assessment
- ▶ Collaboration with provider
- ▶ No additional University resources / staff
- ▶ No new evidence created, use of existing reports / policies presented via TEQSA portal
- ▶ Substantive assessment now in progress



Possible directions

- ▶ Continue to focus on the use of provider risk profiles
- ▶ Less emphasis on formal regulatory applications
- ▶ Move towards enhanced monitoring, “compliance supervision”



Useful websites and Contacts

www.teqsa.gov.au

www.hestandards.gov.au

TEQSA Guidance Notes

[www.teqsa.gov.au/for-providers/
provider-resources](http://www.teqsa.gov.au/for-providers/provider-resources)

Don't know your TEQSA Case Manager?

enquiries@teqsa.gov.au