

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015**

Outcome: Agency: TEQSA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000040

Senator Carr, Kim asked on 25 February 2015, Hansard page 96

Core Standards

Question

Senator KIM CARR: Before Professor Saunders thinks he has got away with this matter, I would like to know the substance of the 33 areas that you are no longer surveying.

Prof. Saunders: I will take it on notice and I am happy to tell you what standards are included and what ones are not.

Answer

The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency has provided the following response.

TEQSA's role is to assure that quality standards are being met by all registered higher education providers. TEQSA's approach to assuring compliance with the Threshold Standards is underpinned by the principles of risk, proportionality and necessity, and is tailored to each provider based on that provider's record of higher education delivery; financial standing; regulatory history; and risk of future non-compliance with the standards.

In the case of renewals of registration and course accreditation, TEQSA uses a 'Core +' approach. There is a core sub-set of standards against which all providers are assessed, and additional standards may be added on the basis of risk, track record and regulatory history.

For renewal of registration the core sub-set includes standards in the following areas:

- Corporate and academic governance
- Risk management
- Strategic planning
- Review of performance against strategic plans
- Review of student performance, including learning outcomes and graduate outcomes
- Academic quality assurance
- Student experience.

For renewal of course accreditation, the core includes standards in the following areas:

- Course design and structure
- Course resourcing
- Course assessment
- Course review.

Further information about TEQSA's registration and accreditation renewal processes can be found in the provider application guides on TEQSA's website at: <http://www.teqsa.gov.au/providers/registration/forms-and-guides>.

It should be noted that applications from new (initial) providers are assessed against all the Standards.