

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education

DEEWR Question No.EW0511_11

Senator Hanson-Young provided in writing.

Question

TEQSA OUTCOMES

The adoption of outcomes and standards-based arrangements” The Bradley Report referred to “the adoption of outcomes and standards-based arrangements”. i. What is the meaning of ‘outcomes’? ii. Do outcomes include the employment and income benefits for graduates? iii. What is meant by ‘standards-based arrangements’?

Answer

The Review of Australian Higher Education (Bradley Review) identified that Australia must enhance its capacity to demonstrate outcomes and appropriate standards in higher education if it is to remain internationally competitive and implement a demand driven model.

One of the shifts in thinking that underpins the new regulatory arrangements for higher education is the shift from a fitness-for-purpose approach to a standards-based approach to quality assurance.

The aim of standards-based quality assurance and regulation is to ensure that all students receive a high quality education that meets fundamental minimum requirements. As part of the new standards-based arrangements, Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) will register and evaluate the performance of higher education providers against the new Higher Education Standards Framework.

Development of the new Standards Framework is underway. Provider Standards are being developed which translate the *National Protocols for Higher Education Approval Processes* into a set of national standards for the registration of higher education providers and approval of their courses. A first draft of these Standards was circulated to stakeholders in March/April this year and the second draft has recently been released for comment (until February 2011).

Professor Bradley has indicated that consultation around the teaching and learning and research standards will take place in the coming months. This work will be informed by developments internationally and domestically in the areas of standards and outcomes.