



RUN submission on the Inquiry into Higher Education Legislation Amendment (Provider Category Standards and Other Measures) Bill 2020

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) provides the following comments on the Higher Education Legislation Amendment (Provider Category Standards and Other Measures) Bill 2020.

RUN supports the Bill and its aims:

- to give effect to the Commonwealth Government's decision to implement the recommendations arising from the *Review of the Higher Education Provider Category Standards*;
- to give effect to an outstanding recommendation from the *Review of the impact of the TEQSA Act on the higher education sector* to refer to the Threshold Standards as a single unified framework;
- improve regulation of Australia's higher education sector through a small number of other measures, including to ensure student records can be appropriately handled following a provider ceasing to operate and to protect the term 'university' as it appears in Australian internet domain names; and
- other measures, including that the Threshold Standards can be made as proposed, and that TEQSA can be enabled to make a determination setting out factors it will take into consideration when assessing the quality of research under new university research benchmarks.

In March 2020, RUN provided a submission in response to consultation by the by the Higher Education Standards Panel on the Threshold Standards. In it, RUN suggested that Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency work with universities on the implementation process for threshold standards relating to the research requirements for universities, including with respect to: relevant metrics to define if research is "world standard"; and mapping Fields of Education to Fields of Research.