



Australian Government

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency



TEQSA

GPO Box 1672
Melbourne, Victoria 3001

Level 14, 530 Collins Street
Melbourne, Victoria 3000

T 1300 739 585
F 1300 739 586

www.teqsa.gov.au

Committee Secretary
Senate Education and Employment Committees
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

Submission on inquiry into the provisions of the *Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment (Streamlining Regulation) Bill 2015 (Streamlining Regulation Bill)* and the *Education Services for Overseas Students (Registration Charges) Amendment (Streamlining Regulation) Bill 2015 (Charges Bill)*.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to provide this submission on behalf of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) in relation to the Streamlining Regulation Bill and the Charges Bill.

As the national quality assurance and regulatory agency for higher education, TEQSA is confident that the reforms proposed in these bills will provide for further regulatory efficiency in the sector and will continue to provide protections for international students.

TEQSA has been involved in extensive consultations with the Department of Education and Training on the areas for reform in the draft bills for more than 12 months. Indeed, the bills reflect many of TEQSA's suggestions about the need to align TEQSA's processes under the *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000* (ESOS Act) and the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011 (TEQSA Act). The alignment of the period of registration under ESOS and TEQSA in particular will significantly reduce the regulatory burden on higher education providers required to submit renewal applications, as well as streamline quality assurance processes and reduce assessment times. It will also facilitate ongoing cooperation between TEQSA and ASQA, the national regulator for vocational education.

I note that the bills also include proposed amendments to the Tuition Protection Service (TPS). TEQSA is confident that those changes will not affect the robust quality assurance arrangements which are in place under the TEQSA Act and the ESOS Act. In particular, TEQSA's approach to the quality assurance of Australian higher education under the ESOS Act and the TEQSA Act reflects that TEQSA's priority is to ensure that students enrolled in Australian higher education courses will be appropriately protected.

TEQSA will work closely with the Department of Education and Training, ASQA and the TPS Director in ensuring that it continues to meet this objective, and is confident that the bills support TEQSA's capacity to do so.

Yours sincerely

Anthony McClaran
Chief Executive Officer

30 October 2015