

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000223

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

Report on the Higher Education Standards Framework

Question

"Has the Review Panel completed its report on the Higher Education Standards Framework? Did the report go to the Minister in December 2014?

I understand that it proposes changes that would vary the Standards in important ways. Can you summarise the proposed changes?

Currently, what version of the Standards is TEQSA operating on? Is it business as usual, using the "old" Standards, even though the Panel has proposed significant changes?

What will be the status of any registrations or accreditations done since December? Will they be interim decisions? Will they need to be reviewed?"

Answer

The Higher Education Standards Panel has completed its review of the Higher Education Standards Framework.

The Panel delivered the report on the review to the Minister in December 2014.

The essential aim of the proposed changes is the same as the current standards, which is to protect the integrity and reputation of Australia's higher education sector ensuring a robust quality assurance system. The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), as an independent national regulator, ensures adherence to the standards when making decisions about regulated higher education providers.

TEQSA is currently regulating against the existing standards and will continue to do so until any new standards are implemented.

All registrations and accreditations decisions will be made against the existing standards until any new standards are implemented. Decisions made prior to the implementation of any new standards will not be 'interim' decisions and will not need to be reviewed.