

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Agency: TEQSA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000061

Senator Carr, Kim asked on 10 February 2016, Proof Hansard page 65

TEQSA: Reaccreditation of initial teacher education courses

Question

Senator KIM CARR: I appreciate your answers. I think they are, in general terms, very good. I will turn to another issue: the reaccreditation of initial teacher education courses. This is particularly tricky because most of the teacher education programs are undertaken by self-accrediting institutions.

Prof. Saunders: Correct.

Senator KIM CARR: You have told the committee that this involves a relatively small number of providers that are now having to reaccredit. How many?

Prof. Saunders: Again I would have to take that on notice to make sure that I give you the exactly correct figures, but it is about 50 courses and I think those 50 courses are spread across about 20 providers.

Senator KIM CARR: Can you tell me how many of those 50 have actually now achieved reaccreditation?

Prof. Saunders: I would have to take that on notice. I think that, since AITSL has come into play, we would not be undertaking any accreditation of teacher training or teacher education courses without actually making sure that AITSL (a) were informed and (b) were engaged in the process.

Senator KIM CARR: Have there been any that have not been reaccredited after you have examined them?

Prof. Saunders: Do you mean in the history of TEQSA?

Senator KIM CARR: In general, yes.

Prof. Saunders: I would have to take that on notice.

Answer

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

TEQSA inherited 72 accredited teacher education courses offered by 14 providers from the previous Government Accreditation Authorities. Of these:

- 39 have been re-accredited by TEQSA
- 24 were withdrawn/allowed to expire without re-accreditation being sought by the provider
- 9 courses are yet to be re-accredited by TEQSA
 - 7 of these are currently under assessment
 - 2 of these are yet to have renewal applications lodged.

TEQSA has accredited 26 new teacher education courses for 11 providers since commencing its regulatory operations.¹

No applications to re-accredit a teacher education course have been rejected by TEQSA to date.

¹ This answer refers to teacher education courses through providers that do not have self-accrediting authority. The majority of students undertake teacher education courses through providers with self-accrediting authority.