

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Agency: TEQSA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000372

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

TEQSA - Renewal of course accreditations (SQ15-000372)

Question

In TEQSA's answer to SQ15-000782, you note that increasing financial resources available to TEQSA would assist in reducing the time taken to complete re-accreditations of courses. Please provide details of the delays that have occurred due to a lack of resources.

Answer

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

Consistent with its response to SQ15-000782, TEQSA considers that in addition to reduced financial resources, there are four other key factors that contribute to 'delays'. These include the quality of applications received, time taken for providers to respond to TEQSA requests for information or findings and TEQSA's internal processes and the extent to which they are streamlined.

Each of these may impact processing times of different applications to different extents and TEQSA has not quantified the specific delays arising from each of these and other interdependent factors.

In its response to SQ15-000782 TEQSA reported the median time taken for renewal of accreditation was 8.6 months for assessments decided in 2014-15. While specific delays have not been quantified, a lack of resources has likely impeded any material reduction in processing times.

However, at a time of reduced resourcing and significant increases in workload, TEQSA has to date maintained and in some instances achieved a moderate reduction in processing times, albeit less than what may have been possible with additional resources.