

## **Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education**

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

**Agency - Tertiary Education Quality & Standards Agency (TEQSA)**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0060\_15**

**Senator Carr provided in writing.**

#### **Question**

##### **TEQSA**

The PBS reports that TEQSA in the past year has “significantly remodelled its approach to risk assessment of providers.” Can you provide details here? For a start, you have reduced “overarching risks” that you recognise from three to two – which risk did you remove from the list? The PBS says you have also reduced provider information requirements. What information, that you previously collected, do you no longer collect – specifically in relation to non-university providers? Why did you decide no longer to collect that information? TEQSA is working with the Department to look at further rationalisation in this area. What is under consideration? Where are you looking to further reduce information-gathering and monitoring?

#### **Answer**

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

TEQSA reviewed its approach to risk assessments of providers based on the experience of its first risk cycle and feedback from the sector. TEQSA’s updated Risk Assessment Framework is published online at: <http://www.teqsa.gov.au/regulatory-approach/risk-assessment-framework>.

The overall risk evaluation area of ‘Risk to Sector Reputation’ was removed given its overlapping nature with the areas of ‘Risk to Students’ and ‘Risk to Financial Position’. Risk to sector reputation warrants careful monitoring but in practice this is not independent of the two other overarching risk areas.

TEQSA reduced data requirements for non-university providers in its 2013 Provider Information Request (PIR) as follows:

- Student load for first half year was no longer requested from ‘FEE-HELP providers’ as data are sourced directly from the Department of Education.
- Unit evaluation survey reports were suspended as it was considered that this information is more suited to assessment at the time of regulatory reviews, such as renewal of course accreditations. TEQSA has retained requirements relating to overall course evaluation surveys.

In the 2014 PIR TEQSA intends to remove reporting of non-academic staff data, as this data is not being well utilised in TEQSA's risk and regulatory processes.

TEQSA is currently working with the Department of Education to rationalise reporting of financial information and to support work towards a single national higher education collection.

At this time TEQSA is not considering reducing its monitoring activities. Existing data sources are being more fully utilised to support TEQSA's annual risk assessments of providers.