

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

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

Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Research & International

Department of Education Question No. ED0068_15

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question

Harvest Bible College

Can the Department confirm that an entity trading as Harvest Bible College is on the TEQSA register? Can the Department confirm that, according to the college's website, the college's entry requirements include the stipulations that an applicant must: "Currently be a committed Christian. • Have the pastor to whom they relate in their local church complete a Pastor's Character Reference Form."? Can you confirm that those studying this college's TEQSA-accredited courses will have access to public subsidies through Commonwealth Subsidised Place funding? Does the Department consider that the entry criteria listed above constitutes discrimination on the basis of religion?

Answer

Harvest Bible College is registered with the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA).

From 1 January 2016 higher education institutions registered by TEQSA will be able to provide Commonwealth supported places to eligible students undertaking accredited higher education bachelor, diploma, advanced diploma or associate degree courses.

The Government has established a working group, led by Professor Peter Shergold, to advise on the eligibility requirements for private universities and non-university higher education institutions (including international institutions) to access Commonwealth supported places (CSPs).

It is therefore not possible yet to be certain for which university courses CSPs will be available, as it will depend on their meeting the eligibility criteria.