

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. ED0347_15

Senator Rhiannon asked on 5 June 2014 , Hansard page 23

Question

Time taken between lodging application's & determination by TEQSA

Senator RHIANNON: Maybe to just help on that, to ask it in a different way: what is the average period of time between a provider lodging an application with TEQSA and a determination being made? Ms Kristoffersen: I do not think it would give you a good perspective or view of the timelines if I gave you the average times, because there were processes that took a long time initially. Some of the average numbers are skewed by, for example, transitional business that we inherited from the state and territory accreditation agencies. Senator RHIANNON: To assist our discussions for tomorrow, could you provide more information on this issue with regard to the period of time between a provider lodging an application and the determination being made—some different examples of that? And it would be useful to quantify, so we know if most are taking a long time, if most are in the average or if it is spread across the board. That would be useful. Ms Kristoffersen: I will certainly do that.

Answer

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

TEQSA's regulatory approach reflects feedback from providers that TEQSA should take a tailored approach to each assessment based on the context of the provider. It also reflects the complexity of higher education regulatory work and the need to afford procedural fairness in appropriate cases, including an opportunity for a provider to respond to any adverse evidence or recommendations. Timeframes for assessment of applications vary depending on these and other factors:

An application progresses quickly when there are: no significant risks identified in the TEQSA risk assessment; positive and recent regulatory findings; quality academic governance; evidence of positive student performance and outcomes; and the application from the provider is complete and unambiguous.

Additional time is required when there are: significant risks identified in the TEQSA risk assessment; where it is a new provider, specialised facilities and equipment are required to deliver a course; the provider requests more time to provide information, a site visit is required; there are difficulties finding suitable experts (if required); there are time constraints on the expert; it is necessary for TEQSA to request further information; the application is incomplete or evidence is not logically presented.

Taking this into account, the period between a provider lodging an application with TEQSA and a final determination being made have ranged from the shortest time of 62 days for a course re-accreditation to the longest of 554 for one renewal of registration.