

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. ED0353_15

Senator Back asked on 5 June 2014 , Hansard page 36

Question

Comparative workload of higher education regulators

Mr Griew: You asked, if I understood correctly, for some comparison of the cost of AUQA versus TEQSA quality assurance. CHAIR: The comparative workload. Mr Griew: Yes, comparative workloads; that is right. I found in my papers here a table which compares AUQA and TEQSA, the UK equivalent quality assurance agency under the UK authority, HEQF, and our own ASQA, the VET regulator. Probably the best measure would be the number of providers per staff member. TEQSA sits at about two, just a shade over two. HEQF— CHAIR: Are these staff members engaged in the audit process? Mr Griew: Yes. That is the staff— CHAIR: Only those associated with the task. Mr Griew: This is the staff complement. This is the number of registered providers divided by the staff complement. It is just a shade over two for TEQSA, about 2½ for the HEQF equivalent, about eight providers per staff in AUQA, and about 20 providers per staff in ASQA. Senator KIM CARR: Is there any chance that we could get that tabled? Mr Griew: I would have to take that on notice because it is in the midst of a whole lot of other stuff. Senator KIM CARR: You might want to extract all the other notes around it. But if the table with the necessary explanatory notes to the table could be tabled, that would be very helpful.

Answer

The table below provides a comparison of regulator staff per institution for the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), the former Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA), the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) and the United Kingdom Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

Regulator	# of registered providers	# staff (ASL)	providers per staff
TEQSA ¹	174	74	2.3
AUQA ²	~120	~16	7.5
ASQA ³	3945	197	20
QAA ⁴	~380	~160	2.4

¹ Provider numbers sourced from TEQSA's National Register at www.teqsa.gov.au/national-register, as at June 2014.

² Provider and staff numbers sourced from AUQA's annual reports for 2009 and 2010. Note that AUQA audit panels drew from a wider Register of Auditors. AUQA documents are available at the archived site at <http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/127066/20110826-0004/www.auqa.edu.au/index.html>.

³ Provider numbers sourced from ASQA's National Register at training.gov.au, as at June 2014.

⁴ Provider and staff numbers from the QAA's website at www.qaa.ac.uk, accessed June 2014.