

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Outcome: Agency: TEQSA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000565

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 31 May 2017, Proof Hansard page 23.

TEQSA: applicants to TEQSA

Question

Senator O'NEILL: In terms of the applicants to TEQSA, could you provide—on notice, if you cannot today—the names of those applicants and particularly the ones that were former RTOs?

Prof. Saunders: People who have actually put in applications?

Senator O'NEILL: Yes.

Prof. Saunders: I will take that on notice. I have been asked this question previously. At the moment, our policy is and our guidelines in terms of publishing information say that we do not publish those people who have put in initial applications. I have been asked this question at Senate estimates committee meetings in the past, and that has been my response, but, towards the end of last year, given that this was a matter that had been raised on a number of occasions, we went out to public consultation about publication of both our decisions and the names of organisations that may have made application to either be registered or have a course accredited and have not been successful. We have had about 25 submissions come back from that consultation paper. We are in the process of analysing that information, and I will be in a better position to give you a revised position on the matter within the next month or two, I think.

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Senator O'NEILL: Could you provide, with regard to those questions, an outline of the applicants who have come through, those who have been successful, those who have not and those who are still in consideration—so a full disclosure of the whole scene.

Answer

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

For the 2016-17 Financial Year, as at 31 March 2017:

- TEQSA had received 21 new applications for registration from prospective providers.
- Four applications for registration had been granted for The Broken Bay Institute, National Institute of Organisation Dynamics Australia Ltd, Health Education and Training, and ISN Psychology Pty Ltd.
 - Note: Health Education and Training is a dual-sector provider.
- Eight applications for registration were withdrawn.
 - Note: these were all from Registered Training Organisations.
- No applications for registration had been rejected.
- 28 applications for registration were under assessment (this includes applications for registration received in 2015-16).

Prospective providers provide information for their applications to TEQSA in confidence. The identification of applicants rejected by TEQSA, or applications which are under assessment, would unfairly prejudice the right of those applicants to a fair hearing and to an appropriately confidential application process. As the Chair stated at the hearing, there are other avenues for sharing this information in confidence with the committee. TEQSA is working with the Minister for Education and Training to arrange a confidential briefing to the committee