



# TEQSA's reform agenda

## What is TEQSA's reform agenda?

TEQSA is committed to continually improving its regulatory framework to reduce the regulatory burden on all higher education providers, while ensuring that processes remain effective in managing risks and maintaining quality in the sector.

Our reform agenda builds on TEQSA's regulatory experiences and achievements since January 2012, including enhanced knowledge of each provider. It also responds to sector feedback and the findings of the recent Review of Higher Education Regulation. Our plans for reform address main areas of concern to the sector, including: reporting requirements; duplication of requirements across regulatory bodies; the time taken to make regulatory decisions; and ensuring that regulatory assessments take a risk-based and proportionate approach.

The reforms to TEQSA's regulatory processes will enable:

- ▶ faster decision making timeframes
- ▶ reduced evidence requirements; and
- ▶ reduced information and reporting requirements.

Some initiatives in the reform agenda will be implemented immediately; others will be implemented progressively during 2014.

TEQSA's approach recognises that established providers contribute significantly to the higher education sector's reputation through self-regulation. New entrants to the sector and providers without a demonstrated track record in the delivery of quality higher education will continue to be subject to strong regulatory oversight by TEQSA.

## How are we cutting red tape?

The reform agenda will deliver significant reductions in regulatory burden to the sector as a whole by:

- ▶ **significantly reducing evidence and information requirements** through tailored assessment processes and application requirements in renewal of registration, renewal of course accreditation, and course accreditation processes. All providers benefit from substantial streamlining, and those with a strong track record in higher education and low risk profile will benefit the most
- ▶ **reducing the amount of information required from providers** by using accumulated experience and information gained from regular assessment of risk, annual data collections and regulatory assessments
- ▶ **strengthening TEQSA's case management model** by supporting greater dialogue between providers and Case Managers in order to streamline and tailor regulatory requirements on an individual provider basis and to enhance transparency of regulatory approaches and requirements
- ▶ **introducing more efficient methods of collecting and managing provider information**, such as by introducing a provider website portal to enable the transfer of secure information

and the electronic submission of applications to TEQSA. Providers will no longer be required to provide paper copies of applications and associated evidence

- ▶ **reducing reporting requirements** by reviewing the annual Provider Information Request (completed for 2013)
- ▶ **reviewing TEQSA's Regulatory Risk Framework** in order to improve its alignment with regulatory processes and to significantly reduce the number of risk indicators
- ▶ **narrowing and further clarifying** the circumstances in which TEQSA expects **material change notifications** (published on TEQSA's website in September 2013)
- ▶ **limiting quality assessments** initiated by TEQSA to a maximum of one per calendar year, informed by sector feedback on future topics, terms of reference, scope and scheduling
- ▶ **developing collaborative approaches for reducing regulatory burden** such as through better use of existing information sets in regulatory assessments; and reducing or eliminating duplication in reporting requirements by working with the Department of Education and other key stakeholders in the higher education regulatory environment
- ▶ **progressing MOUs with selected professional bodies** on implementing complementary accreditation processes
- ▶ **jointly managing CRICOS applications with ASQA** for providers registered as both an NVR Registered Training Organisation (RTO) and a higher education provider
- ▶ **recommending changes to the regulatory architecture, including underpinning legislation**, to reduce regulatory burden for providers, such as through alignment of maximum registration and accreditation periods under the ESOS and TEQSA Acts; and removal of overlapping provisions in these Acts
- ▶ **strengthening stakeholder consultation and engagement**, such as: through meetings with peak bodies, Vice-Chancellors or CEOs of provider groups and other functional groups; by providing information and guidance on TEQSA's regulatory approach and requirements through various means such as podcasts, webinars, information sheets and workshops; and by developing systematic student engagement strategies.