

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio  
Additional Estimates Hearing 2011-12  
15 February 2012

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** TERTIARY EDUCATION QUALITY STANDARDS  
AGENCY

**TOPIC:** Torrens University Australia

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Mason

**QUESTION No.:** AI-183

In relation to the establishment of the new Torrens University Australia:

1. Has TEQSA put in place all systems necessary for approval of new Universities?
2. What steps are necessary for the establishment of a new University?
3. Has TEQSA received all necessary information from Laureate in relation to the establishment of Torrens University Australia? If not, what information is Laureate yet to provide?
4. When is Torrens University Australia expected to commence?
5. Will Torrens University have any regulatory restrictions on the date of commencement? If so, when will they be removed?
6. What follow up will be undertaken by TEQSA to determine the University is performing well?

**ANSWER**

1. TEQSA is in the process of developing policy and processes for determining applications for the university provider categories.
2. TEQSA's part in the process is:
  - 1) Provider applies for registration to TEQSA.
  - 2) TEQSA undertakes a preliminary assessment of the application, consulting the State or Territory Minister before making a decision.
  - 3) TEQSA advises applicant if the provider category is appropriate.
  - 4) Applicant may elect to proceed to substantive assessment, providing any further documentation required by TEQSA.
  - 5) TEQSA consults with State/Territory Minister again.
  - 6) TEQSA grants application or not.
3. TEQSA is in consultation with Laureate to discuss the appropriate process.
4. Declaration of Approval to Establish Torrens University Australia by the SA Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education stated that the commencement date of the new institution should not be prior to January 2013.

5. It is not possible to anticipate the answer to these questions.
6. All Higher Education Providers will be subject to regular risk assessments, re-registration and monitoring of compliance with the Threshold Standards, for example, through the requirement to notify TEQSA of material changes.