

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education

DEEWR Question No.EW0507_11

Senator Hanson-Young provided in writing.

Question

TEQSA - REGISTRATION & RE-REGISTRATION

The Bradley report envisaged TEQSA as “a national regulator with stronger powers for registration and re-registration of all higher education providers”. i. Have all the States agreed to refer their powers to the Commonwealth with respect to provider accreditation? ii. What are the implications of TEQSA’s power for the State Acts establishing universities? iii. Is re-registration is to be based on (a) a comprehensive review of a provider’s operations; or (b) periodic thematic reviews of all providers whether by function (e.g. assessment) or field (e.g. law); or (c) specific investigations of signals of operational deficiency or complaints by students and others? iv. Is the re-registration bar to be at a whole-of-institution level, or at program (qualification) level or at some other level (e.g. disciplinary units of study), or some combination of each?

Answer

TEQSA will be established using the corporations, territories and other powers under the constitution.

The introduction of TEQSA will not change the fact that most universities are established in legislation in their state or territory. Where universities are currently subject to the state and territory legislation, as it relates to state authorities, this will continue. Universities will also continue to be subject to all the state legislation that applies to bodies established in state legislation.

Once TEQSA is established all higher education providers, including universities whether they are new or established, will need to be registered on the National Register of Higher Education Providers which will be maintained by TEQSA.

Registering a new university will only occur after close consultation with the relevant state or territory government.

Upon registration with TEQSA, a provider will be advised of the period of registration and when re-registration will occur.

Currently, providers are assessed at the institutional level for registration and qualifications are assessed at the course level for accreditation (where undertaken by the state or territory). While the detail of how TEQSA will conduct re-registration and accreditation is a matter for TEQSA to develop, the Government has stated that TEQSA’s approach will be risk-based and proportionate.