Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

Entity resources and planned performance

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# Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

## Section 1: Entity overview and resources

### 1.1 Strategic direction statement

The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) is Australia’s national higher education quality assurance and regulatory agency established under the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011 (the Act). TEQSA commenced regulatory functions on 29 January 2012.

The Act confers powers and functions on TEQSA, among other things, to:

* register regulated entities as registered higher education providers and accredit courses of study
* conduct compliance assessments and quality assessments
* conduct accreditation assessments of courses developed by providers without self‑accrediting authority
* provide advice and make recommendations to the Minister on matters relating to the quality or regulation of higher education providers
* collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate information relating to quality assurance practice and quality improvement in higher education
* co-operate with similar agencies in other countries.

TEQSA also has responsibility, as an ESOS agency under the *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000*, for regulating all providers delivering higher education to overseas students studying in Australia, and some providers delivering English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students (ELICOS) and Foundation programs (where they have an entry arrangement for their graduates with a registered higher education provider). Providers in all categories that wish to offer higher education courses to overseas students must be registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS).

### 1.2 Entity resource statement

Table 1.1 shows the total funding from all sources available to the entity for its operations and to deliver programs and services on behalf of the Government.

The table summarises how resources will be applied by outcome (government strategic policy objectives) and by administered (on behalf of the Government or the public) and departmental (for the entity’s operations) classification.

For more detailed information on special accounts and special appropriations, please refer to *Budget Paper No. 4 – Agency Resourcing*.

Information in this table is presented on a resourcing (that is, appropriations/cash available) basis, whilst the ‘Budgeted expenses by Outcome 1’ tables in Section 2 and the financial statements in Section 3 are presented on an accrual basis.

Table 1.1: TEQSA resource statement — Budget estimates for 2018–19 as at Budget May 2018

Financial table - availible from www.data.gov.au

Prepared on a resourcing (that is, appropriations available) basis.

Note: All figures shown above are GST exclusive – these may not match figures in the cash flow statement.

(a) Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2018–19.

(b) Excludes $0.015m subject to quarantine by Finance or withheld under s51 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act).

(c) Excludes departmental capital budget (DCB).

(d) Estimated retained revenue receipts under s74 of the PGPA Act.

(e) Departmental capital budgets are not separately identified in Appropriation Bill (No. 1) and form part of ordinary annual services items. Please refer to Table 3.5 for further details. For accounting purposes, this amount has been designated as a 'contribution by owner’.

(f) Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2018–19.

### 1.3 Budget measures

Budget measures in Part 1 relating to the TEQSA are detailed in Budget Paper No. 2 and are summarised below.

Table 1.2: TEQSA 2018–19 Budget measures

Part 1: Measures announced since the 2017–18 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO)

Financial table - availible from www.data.gov.au

Prepared on a Government Finance Statistics (fiscal) basis. Figures displayed in brackets are negative and represent a decrease in funds. Non-bracketed figures are positive and represent an increase in funds.

## Section 2: Outcomes and planned performance

Government outcomes are the intended results, impacts or consequences of actions by the Government on the Australian community. Commonwealth programs are the primary vehicle by which government entities achieve the intended results of their outcome statements. Entities are required to identify the programs which contribute to government outcomes over the Budget and forward years.

Each outcome is described below together with its related programs. The following provides detailed information on expenses for each outcome and program, further broken down by funding source.

**Note:**

Performance reporting requirements in the Portfolio Budget Statements are part of the enhanced Commonwealth performance framework established by the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. It is anticipated that the performance criteria described in Portfolio Budget Statements will be read with broader information provided in an entity’s corporate plans and annual performance statements – included in Annual Reports - to provide an entity’s complete performance story.

[The most recent corporate plan for TEQSA can be found at: www.teqsa.gov.au](http://www.teqsa.gov.au)

[The most recent annual performance statement can be found in the Annual Report at: www.teqsa.gov.au.](http://www.teqsa.gov.au/)

### 2.1 Budgeted expenses and performance for Outcome 1

|  |
| --- |
| Outcome 1: Contribute to a high quality higher education sector through streamlined and nationally consistent higher education regulatory arrangements; registration of higher education providers; accreditation of higher education courses; and investigation, quality assurance and dissemination of higher education standards and performance. |

#### Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1

This table shows how much the entity intends to spend (on an accrual basis) on achieving the outcome, broken down by program, as well as by administered and departmental funding sources.

Table 2.1.1: Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1

Financial table - availible from www.data.gov.au

(a) Estimated expenses incurred in relation to receipts retained under s74 of the PGPA Act.

(b) Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year are made up of depreciation expenses and audit fees.

(c) Figures displayed in brackets are negative and represent a decrease in funds. Non-bracketed figures are positive and represent an increase in funds.

Note: Departmental appropriation splits and totals are indicative estimates and may change in the course of the budget year as government priorities change.

#### Performance criteria for Outcome 1

This section details the performance criteria for each program associated with Outcome 1. It also summarises how each program is delivered and where 2018–19 Budget measures have created new programs or materially changed existing programs.

| Outcome 1: Contribute to a high quality higher education sector through streamlined and nationally consistent higher education regulatory arrangements; registration of higher education providers; accreditation of higher education courses; and investigation, quality assurance and dissemination of higher education standards and performance. |
| --- |

##### Program 1.1: Regulation and Quality Assurance

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Objective | Regulation and quality assurance ensure that quality standards are being met by all higher education providers so that the interests of students and the reputation of Australia’s higher education sector are promoted and protected. This occurs by reference to the Higher Education Threshold Standards, which are determined by the Minister for Education and Training on advice from an independent Higher Education Standards Panel. A risk-based approach is used for planning and implementing assessments of provider compliance with those Standards. |
| Delivery | The mechanisms through which Program 1.1 will be delivered are:  register regulated entities as registered higher education providers and accredit courses of study  conduct compliance assessments and quality assessments  conduct re-accreditation assessments of courses developed by providers without self-accrediting authority  provide advice and make recommendations to the Commonwealth Minister responsible for Education on matters relating to the quality and regulation of higher education providers  cooperate with similar agencies in other countries  collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate information relating to quality assurance practice and quality improvement in higher education. |
| Purpose[[1]](#footnote-1) | To safeguard student interests and the reputation of the higher education sector by assuring the quality of Australian higher education through a proportionate, risk reflective approach to regulation which allows higher education providers to pursue their individual missions and encourages diversity, innovation and excellence. Our work is underpinned by the intention of encouraging, supporting and recognising effective internal quality assurance in providers.  We have three key goals in delivering our purpose:  effective oversight of the quality and reputation of Australian higher education  efficient, effective, responsive, risk-based quality assurance and regulatory activities  constructive and collaborative relationships with governments, higher education providers, students and other stakeholders. |

###### Performance information 1.1

| Year | Performance criteria | Expected achievement |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2017–18 | TEQSA has effective mechanisms to identify, monitor and respond to risks to higher education across the sector. | New mechanisms have been implemented to manage out-of-cycle regulatory work, including responding to emerging risks to quality and the assessment of applications received from prospective entrants.  An approach has been established on enhanced monitoring, sector intelligence gathering and analysis of risk, with a correspondingly targeted approach to assessment.  Further integration of risk analysis and regulatory decision making is expected to be achieved, through the use of comprehensive datasets to inform risk analysis and regulatory interventions. |
|  | Enhanced levels of sector information are made readily available. | Aggregate observations of performance and risks have been published including: annual statistics on registered higher education providers, key financial metrics, assessment outcomes reporting, and the role of risk analyses in assessment outcomes. |
|  | TEQSA engages in regular, constructive consultation with the sector, stakeholders and international agencies to achieve the agency’s strategic objectives. | Cross border regulatory activity has been strengthened and streamlined through engagement with international quality agencies.  TEQSA’s understanding and effectiveness in international higher education, and contribution to development of transnational policy is increased through signing or re‑signing MoUs for the sharing of information with international quality agencies including provider visits and staff exchanges. |
|  | Regulation and quality assurance does not unnecessarily impede the efficient operation of higher education providers. | Tailored and proportionate approaches are applied to all assessments undertaken during the year, based on risks and performance data about providers.  TEQSA’s efficient and effective administration of regulatory functions is reflected in the positive results of the 2017 survey of providers. |
|  | TEQSA’s decisions clearly articulate the reasons for decisions, and all higher education providers have a reasonable opportunity to address matters relevant to a decision. | Decisions continue to be made in a timely manner and providers are informed in accordance with legislative timeframes.  Where an adverse decision is proposed, a draft summary of findings is sent to providers to allow providers a reasonable opportunity to respond. |
|  | TEQSA’s compliance and monitoring approaches are streamlined and coordinated. | Collaboration with the Department of Education and Training continues to be strengthened, data collection from providers is automated and data access and sharing is enhanced.  Collaboration with industry professional bodies to share data reduces the burden of regulatory requirements.  Cooperation with international quality agencies is utilised where necessary for regulation of Australian providers operating internationally. |
|  | Effective implementation of regulatory responsibilities is achieved, including requirements of the TEQSA and ESOS Acts. | Responded to outcomes of the review of the impact of the TEQSA Act.  Implement changes to support transition to the revised National Code in the ESOS Framework. |
|  | TEQSA’s communication with higher education providers is clear, targeted and effective. Specific dealings with higher education providers are also open, transparent and consistent. | Information has been conveyed to stakeholders regularly and is readily accessible including via an improved TEQSA website.  Issues of concern to the sector and stakeholders were included in the program of annual TEQSA Conference.  The majority of providers surveyed rate TEQSA’s communication as good or excellent. |
|  | Increased synergies developed with other agencies and contributions to collaborative goals. | Information relevant to risks to quality, protection of students and reputation of the sector to be shared with Commonwealth agencies and the regulatory agencies of other countries.  Work has been undertaken with the Higher Education Standards Panel to implement the Government response to Report on the Transparency of Admissions Processes for Higher Education, including a formative evaluation of the current position and good practice guidance on meeting the Panel’s expectations in this area. |

| **Year** | **Performance criteria** | **Target** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2018–19 | TEQSA’s decisions are provided in a timely manner, clearly articulating the reasons for decisions, and TEQSA gives all higher education providers a reasonable opportunity to address matters relevant to a decision by TEQSA before making a decision that affects the provider. | Decisions are made in a timely manner and providers are informed in accordance with legislative timeframes.  **Target:** 90% or more of assessments regarding low risk providers are decided within 6 months. |
|  | TEQSA has effective mechanisms to identify, monitor and respond to risks to the quality and standards of higher education across the sector. | Low risk providers have regulatory burden reduced and moderate-high risk providers increase their quality assurance effort.  **Target:** There is a demonstrated correlation between the risk rating of providers and assessment outcomes. |
|  | TEQSA communication with higher education providers is clear, targeted and effective. | The majority of providers surveyed rate TEQSA’s communication as good or excellent.  **Target:** 80% or more of providers rate TEQSA’s communication as good or excellent. |
|  | TEQSA engages in regular, constructive dialogue with international quality assurance agencies to contribute to the development of effective transnational quality assurance. | Cross border regulatory activity is strengthened and streamlined through engagement with international quality agencies.  **Target:** TEQSA undertakes two joint projects with international partner agencies in accordance with memorandum of cooperation. |
| 2019–20 and beyond | As per 2018–19. | As per 2018–19. |

## Section 3: Budgeted financial statements

Section 3 presents budgeted financial statements which provide a comprehensive snapshot of entity finances for the 2018–19 budget year, including the impact of budget measures and resourcing on financial statements.

### 3.1 Budgeted financial statements

#### 3.1.1 Differences between entity resourcing and financial statements

There are no material differences between the resources table and the budget financial statements.

#### 3.1.2 Explanatory notes and analysis of budgeted financial statements

The budgeted financial statements have been updated to reflect changes and other variations since the 2017–18 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS).

An analysis of TEQSA’s budgeted financial statement for 2018–19 is provided below:

##### Budgeted departmental comprehensive income statement

TEQSA is budgeting for an operating loss equal to the unappropriated depreciation and amortisation expense of $0.896 million in 2018–19.

Total expenses excluding depreciation and amortisation expenses are estimated to be $18.254 million in 2018–19. This is an increase of $3.748 million from the 2017–18 estimated actual. The increase in expenditure reflects Government’s decision to provide additional resources to TEQSA to enable the agency to effectively undertake regulatory functions and sector-wide activities including admissions transparency evaluation and academic integrity.

##### Budgeted departmental balance sheet

The budgeted net position at the end of 2018–19 is estimated to be $5.833 million. This is $0.750 million higher than 2017–18 and is mainly attributable to an increase in financial and non-financial assets.

##### Schedule of budgeted income and expenses administered on behalf of Government

The schedule of budgeted income and expenses reflects the fees and levies collected from regulatory services by TEQSA on behalf of Government.

Revenue estimated for 2018–19 is $4.194 million which is $0.551 million higher than the estimated actual revenue for 2017–18. The increase is a result of the new fee structure to be introduced in 2018–19 following a review of TEQSA’s cost recovery arrangements.

### 3.2. Budgeted financial statements tables

Table 3.1: Comprehensive income statement (showing net cost of services) for the period ended 30 June

Financial table - availible from www.data.gov.au

(a) From 2010–11, the Government introduced net cash appropriation arrangements where Bill 1 revenue appropriations for the depreciation/amortisation expenses of non-corporate Commonwealth entities (and select corporate Commonwealth entities) were replaced with a separate capital budget (the Departmental Capital Budget, or DCB) provided through Bill 1 equity appropriations. For information regarding DCBs, please refer to Table 3.5 Departmental Capital Budget Statement.

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.2: Budgeted departmental balance sheet (as at 30 June)

Financial table - availible from www.data.gov.au

\* ‘Equity’ is the residual interest in assets after deduction of liabilities.

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.3: Departmental statement of changes in equity — summary of movement (Budget year 2018–19)

Financial table - availible from www.data.gov.au

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.4: Budgeted departmental statement of cash flows (for the period ended 30 June)

Financial table - availible from www.data.gov.au

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.5: Departmental capital budget statement (for the period ended 30 June)

Financial table - availible from www.data.gov.au

(a) Includes both current Bill 2 and prior Act 2/4/6 appropriations.

(b) Does not include annual finance lease costs. Includes purchases from current and previous years’ Departmental capital budgets (DCBs).

(c) Includes the following sources of funding:

- current Bill 1 and prior year Act 1/3/5 appropriations (excluding amounts from the DCB)

- donations and contributions

- gifts

- internally developed assets

- s74 Retained revenue receipts

- proceeds from the sale of assets.

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.6: Statement of asset movements (Budget year 2018–19)

Financial table - availible from www.data.gov.au

(a) 'Appropriation equity' refers to equity injections appropriations provided through Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2017–18, including CDABs.

(b) 'Appropriation ordinary annual services' refers to funding provided through Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2017–18 for depreciation/amortisation expenses, DCBs or other operational expenses.

(c) Net proceeds may be returned to the OPA.

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.7: Schedule of budgeted income and expenses administered on behalf of Government (for the period ended 30 June)

Financial table - availible from www.data.gov.au

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.8: Schedule of budgeted assets and liabilities administered on behalf of Government (as at 30 June)

TEQSA returns all administered revenue to the Consolidated Revenue Fund and does not have administered assets or liabilities. Therefore, Table 3.8 is not presented.

Table 3.9: Schedule of budgeted administered cash flows (for the period ended 30 June)

Financial table - availible from www.data.gov.au

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.10: Administered capital budget statement (for the period ended 30 June)

TEQSA does not have any administered capital budget, therefore Table 3.10 is not presented.

Table 3.11: Statement of administered asset movements (Budget year 2018–19)

TEQSA does not have any administered assets, therefore Table 3.11 is not presented.

1. Refers to updated purposes that will be reflected in the 2018–19 Corporate Plan. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)