



Renewal of registration

Report on renewal of registration of Victoria University

TEQSA has determined, under Section 36(1) of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011, that registration of Victoria University as a higher education provider be renewed for a period of seven years to 29 August 2020 in the provider category of 'Australian University'.

Background to Decision

Victoria University submitted an application for renewal of registration in the category of 'Australian University' under Section 35 of the TEQSA Act 2011 (the TEQSA Act). Subsection 36(4) of the TEQSA Act enables TEQSA to renew a provider's registration for a period not exceeding seven years.

Main Reasons for Decision

As part of the renewal of registration process, TEQSA has assessed the application submitted by Victoria University against the Threshold Standards. The scope of the assessment included all its Australian sites and sites in China, Malaysia, India, Kuwait, Vietnam and Singapore.

Victoria University has demonstrated to TEQSA that it continues to meet the Threshold Standards.

Purpose of this report

This is standard wording for all reports.

The objects of the TEQSA Act (as listed at Section 3) include to:

- protect and enhance:
 - Australia's reputation for quality higher education and training services; and
 - Australia's international competitiveness in the higher education sector; and
 - excellence, diversity and innovation in higher education in Australia
- protect students undertaking, or proposing to undertake, higher education in Australia by requiring the provision of quality higher education
- ensure students undertaking, or proposing to undertake, higher education, have access to information relating to higher education in Australia.

Reports on TEQSA's determinations contribute to meeting these objects by making its regulatory decisions and actions publicly available. This report provides information about the applicant, the application for renewal of registration process and the main reasons for TEQSA's decision.

Background

TEQSA is Australia's regulatory and quality agency for higher education. TEQSA's primary aim is to ensure that students receive a high quality education at any Australian higher education provider. *The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act* ('the TEQSA Act') provides the legislative basis for TEQSA's powers and functions, which include: (a) registration and renewal of registration of higher education providers; and (b) accreditation of courses of study delivered by registered higher education providers without self-accrediting authority. TEQSA's regulatory decisions are made in accordance with relevant requirements of the:

- 1. TEQSA Act, available at: http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2011C00582
- 2. Threshold Standards (as defined by the TEQSA Act), which include the *Provider Registration Standards*, the *Provider Category Standards*, the *Provider Course Accreditation Standards*, and the Qualification Standards, available at: http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2012L00003/Download.

Section 13 of the TEQSA Act sets out three basic principles for regulation which TEQSA must comply with when exercising a power under the Act in relation to a regulated entity:

- 1. regulatory necessity
- 2. reflecting risk
- 3. proportionate regulation.

Section 196 of the TEQSA Act provides that TEQSA may disclose to the public higher education information that relates to anything done, or omitted to be done, under the Act. Paragraph 134(1)(e) gives TEQSA the function to "collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate information relating to" higher education providers, awards, quality assurance practice and quality improvement in higher education and the Higher Education Standards Framework."

The main steps in TEQSA's renewal of registration process are summarised at *Attachment 1*.

Attachment 1

Summary of TEQSA's Renewal of Registration Process

Submission of Application

- An existing higher education provider submits an application for renewal of registration, which must be in the approved form and accompanied by the required fee.
- An application for renewal of registration must be made at least 180 days before the provider's registration is to end, or a shorter period subject to TEQSA's permission.

Completeness Check

 Upon receipt of the application, TEQSA undertakes a completeness check. TEQSA will notify the provider, normally within 30 days of receipt of the application, of requirements for any further information, documents or assistance.

Substantive Assessment

- In accordance with Subsection 36(2) of the TEQSA Act, TEQSA undertakes a substantive assessment. A
 substantive assessment may include site visits to the provider's higher education locations and/or
 involvement of external experts. If an external expert is used, the provider will be given an opportunity to
 identify any potential conflicts of interest.
- TEQSA may request further information, documents and assistance during the substantive assessment process.

Summary of findings

- Following the substantive assessment, if the findings recommend rejecting the application for renewal of registration, or approving it with conditions on a provider's registration, the provider will be sent a summary of findings and any relevant evidence not previously seen by the provider.
- The provider is given an opportunity to comment on the summary of findings before a decision is made.

Consultation with Minister

- If the proposed decision is to reject the provider's application for renewal of registration, and the registration is in a provider category that permits the use of the word 'university', TEQSA will send the summary of findings to the Minister with responsibility for higher education in the relevant state or territory, and will provide an opportunity for them to respond. TEQSA will also send the summary of findings to the Commonwealth Minister with responsibility for higher education for information.

Final decision

- If a provider (or, as applicable, a Minister) has responded about the summary of findings, TEQSA will
 consider this information before making a final decision in accordance with Subsection 36(7) of the TEQSA
 Act.
- In accordance with Subsection 36(4) of the TEQSA Act, if an application for renewal of registration is approved, TEQSA's final decision includes a decision about the period for which the provider's registration is renewed. This period must not exceed seven years.



- Within 30 days of TEQSA making a decision to grant or reject the renewal of registration application, the provider will be issued with a notice of decision and a final summary of findings, including the period of registration, and any conditions on registration. The provider is given up to 28 days to correct any errors of fact in the final summary of findings. Where an application has been rejected, or where conditions have been imposed on the provider's registration, the notice will be accompanied by a statement of reasons.
- The provider is also given a draft public report about the decision and up to 28 days in which to provide feedback on the draft report. This feedback is taken into account by TEQSA prior to publishing the report.

Public Report and update National Register

- The provider's details will be updated on the National Register of Higher Education Providers in accordance
 with the National Register Guidelines. Any details about a decision to impose conditions will only be included
 at the end of the period for applying for review of the decision to impose conditions, or at the end of the
 review process.
- A public report on TEQSA's decision and the reasons for the decision will be published on the National Register following consideration of any feedback from the provider and, where relevant, at the conclusion of the period for applying for review of the decision.