

Mr Tim Watling
Committee Secretary
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

6 April 2011

Dear Mr Watling

Re Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Bill 2011 (the Bill)

Australian Government funding for the Australian Learning and Teaching Council will cease at the end of 2011. Initial comments by the Government indicated that this decision was linked directly to the establishment of TEQSA.

A close reading of the Bill for TEQSA's establishment reveals that there is little opportunity for duplication in the roles or functions between the ALTC and TEQSA.

TEQSA will be responsible for registering providers and accrediting courses of study and for ensuring that higher education providers meet the Higher Education Standards Framework. It will do this by regulating higher education provision.

The ALTC has had no role in regulation. The ALTC's mission is to promote and advance learning and teaching in Australian higher education. It has done this through support for innovation and strategic change in institutions for the enhancement of teaching and learning, the recognition of the importance of teaching, the sharing of good individual and institutional practice in learning and teaching, and the acknowledgement of excellence in teaching.

The ALTC's approach to its mission has been to work collaboratively with the higher education sector to enable strategic change through facilitation, support, collaboration and the establishment of networks and partnerships.

Central to TEQSA's role as the regulator of higher education is the development and implementation of the Higher Education Standards Framework, which will include non-threshold Teaching and Learning standards.

I would like to draw the Committee's attention to the work commissioned by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and led by the ALTC in the Learning and Teaching Academic Standards project.

This demonstration project showed successfully that discipline communities, which include academics, professional bodies and employers, can work collaboratively to define threshold learning outcomes.

It is my sincere hope that the outstanding outcomes generated through this project are not lost with the closure of the ALTC but considered closely by TEQSA and the Standards Panel in their deliberations about the development of the Teaching and Learning Standards.

Yours sincerely

Emeritus Professor John Hay AC
Chair, Australian Learning and Teaching Council

