

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Agency: TEQSA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000782

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

TEQSA - reaccreditations

Question

The TEQSA Annual Report notes that its target of 70% of reaccreditations completed in 6 months was not achieved in 2014-15. Only 49% were completed in that timeframe. It is implied that, essentially, this failure was due to reduction in resources. Can you confirm that? What was the average length of time, in 2014-15, for completion of reaccreditations? What additional resources would be required for TEQSA to be able to meet its target in this area?

Answer

The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) provided the following response.

The amount of time between receiving an application and making a final decision varies according to a number of factors, including:

- the quality of the application material and evidence provided by the applicant
- the extent to which the applicant evidently meets the required standards
- the time taken by applicants to respond to requests for additional information
- the time taken by applicants to respond to TEQSA's findings
- the need for TEQSA to seek legal advice on adverse findings
- legal actions taken by the provider against adverse findings
- the resources available to TEQSA to conduct the assessment and support the assessment process.

The median time taken for renewal of accreditation was 8.6 months for assessments decided in 2014-15.

Increasing resources available to TEQSA to conduct the assessment and support the assessment process is likely to assist TEQSA to improve the time taken to complete its assessment. In addition other factors that may contribute to a reduced assessment time include:

- applications submitted by providers more fit for purpose
- applicants responding more quickly to TEQSA's requests for information
- applicants responding more quickly to TEQSA's findings
- further streamlining of TEQSA's internal processes for assessing applications for renewal of course accreditations.