

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Agency: TEQSA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000785

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

TEQSA - Partnership arrangements between universities and TAFE colleges - SQ15-000291

Question

In SQ15-000291 you explain what kind of material and evidence TEQSA would examine if it were to look at partnership arrangements between universities and TAFE colleges. You say that, at the time of writing, you had not undertaken any examination of any such arrangement. Have you now undertaken such an examination? Of which arrangements? Do you plan to look at these arrangements in any systematic way? Can you explain that? What timeline do you envisage?

Answer

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

TEQSA has published a series of 'guidance notes', intended to provide greater clarity for providers in the interpretation and application of selected standards. They draw on TEQSA's regulatory experience to date and the knowledge of experts in the higher education sector. TEQSA has published a guidance note on Third Party Arrangements available at <http://www.teqsa.gov.au/for-providers/provider-resources>. This guidance note is relevant to partnerships between universities and TAFEs and provides information about what TEQSA will look for with regard to third party arrangements.

This guidance note was informed by the only systematic assessment of third party arrangements conducted in 2013 as TEQSA's first and only 'quality assessment'. TEQSA has no current plans for a further systematic examination of third party arrangements but it has considered some university/TAFE partnerships to date.

Provider Registration Standard 4.5 requires providers to have effective measures to manage and quality assure arrangements where another entity manages or delivers all or part of a higher education course of study. TEQSA has, as part of its cyclical assessments, considered such arrangements between universities and TAFEs. Arrangements considered include:

- La Trobe University / Melbourne Polytechnic
- University of Canberra and collectively the 'Australian Polytechnic Network' incorporating
 - TAFE NSW – South Western Sydney
 - TAFE NSW – North Sydney Institute
 - TAFE Queensland
 - Holmesglen Institute
- La Trobe University / Chisolm Institute
- Flinders University / TAFE SA.