

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2011-12
15 February 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: TERTIARY EDUCATION QUALITY STANDARDS AGENCY (TEQSA)

TOPIC: TEQSA's relationship with ASQA

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Mason

QUESTION No.: AI-184

In relation to TEQSA's relationship with the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA):

1. Has TEQSA signed a memorandum of understanding with ASQA?
2. What are the terms of the memorandum of understanding?
3. Will the memorandum of understanding be released?
4. Are there any matters in which TEQSA and ASQA have not yet agreed?

ANSWER

1. Yes, this was signed by both agencies on 12 December 2011.
2. The objectives of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) are as follows:
'The parties will work together to develop a coordinated regulatory approach for multi-sector providers with the objectives of:
 - (a) streamlining the regulation of multi-sector providers to the maximum extent possible given different and separate regulatory standards frameworks for the higher education and vocational education and training sectors;
 - (b) reducing the potential for duplication that impacts on the regulatory burden and cost for multi-sector providers; and
 - (c) using a customised regulatory approach that caters for the unique circumstances of each multi-sector provider.'
3. A joint communiqué to update the sector on the MOU and its implementation was released in early March and has been posted on both the TEQSA and ASQA websites. <http://www.asqa.gov.au/about-asqa/regulatory-approach/asqa--and-teqsa.html> and <http://www.teqsa.gov.au/news>. This contains details of the content of the MOU.
4. No. TEQSA and ASQA are working through a range of operational details necessary to implement the commitments outlined in the MOU.