

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio  
Additional Estimates Hearing 2012-13  
13 February 2013

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

**TOPIC:** Sydney University and Enterprise Agreements

**REFERENCE:** Written Question –Senator Rhiannon

**QUESTION No.:** AI-101

1. In 2001-12 hundreds of academics at Sydney Uni had to justify their teaching positions under new research performance standards. What is TEQSA's response to this development?
2. Sydney University's draft Enterprise Agreement subsequently removed many workplace conditions and limits the ability of academics to undertake research: With the next national round of university enterprise agreements due, how do teacher's conditions intersect with TEQSA's concerns about quality of teaching and learning?
3. Is this issue something TEQSA is keeping a watching brief on in terms of how it affects quality provision of higher education?

**ANSWER**

1. Industrial issues are internal matters for each organisation, and are not generally matters that fall within TEQSA's responsibilities.
- 2&3. TEQSA monitors all higher education providers against the Threshold Standards. This includes an analysis of information relevant to a provider's current and future ability to deliver quality higher education. Consideration may be given to, for example, levels of senior academic staff, staff qualifications and profile, staff turnover levels and staff-student ratios.

Risk profiles are developed each year and are reviewed in light of any new information received by TEQSA (for example, through an application for re-accreditation of a course of study). This enables TEQSA to monitor potential vulnerabilities in the provision of higher education on a continuous basis.