

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
17 October 2012

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

TOPIC: CRICOS Registration Process

REFERENCE: Written Question –Senator Mason

QUESTION No.: SI-57

In regards to the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) registration process:

- a) How much time does it currently take from the moment an application is lodged by a provider to a decision by TEQSA being communicated to a provider?
- b) How does this time-frame compare to with the performance of state-based regulators when they were performing the same or analogous function? If there is a difference, what are the reasons?
- c) What are all the steps that TEQSA takes between the moment of lodgement and the communication of the decision?
- d) When TEQSA finds problems with an application, does it require the provider to make a new application? If yes, what are the reasons for this policy as opposed to enabling the provider to amend their original application?

ANSWER

- a) The time taken to process a CRICOS application depends on the nature of the application and the assessment. For example, applications which require a site visit or further information is required from the providers, will take longer to assess. In the ease of straightforward applications such as adding courses to CRICOS for self-accrediting providers, it currently takes between 5 to 10 days.
- b) TEQSA does not have data about the performance time-frames of former state-based regulators.
- c) The main steps in the CRICOS registration process between lodgement of the application and notification of the decision are as follows:.

Assessment

- Applications are assigned to a TEQSA Provider Case Manager.
- Applications are assessed against Section 9 of the *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000* and the requirements of the *National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2007* ('the National Code').
- The CRICOS registration process may involve a site inspection, including an inspection of all the premises where the applicant intends to deliver courses and locations where there are

arrangements with other providers. In some cases TEQSA may choose to accept from a provider a statement that it satisfies all of the requirements of the National Code without conducting a site inspection, as long as the course is provided entirely by the provider (that is not under any arrangements with another provider).

Decision

- Following the assessment of the application and site inspection if required, TEQSA will make a decision to approve or refuse the application. If an application is approved, a certificate of registration will be issued and the organisation's details are entered on CRICOS. If an application is not approved, the applicant is advised in writing of the reasons for the decision.
- d) If there are problems with an application, TEQSA will seek further information from the provider to supplement the original application