

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education

DEEWR Question No.EW0504_11

Senator Hanson-Young provided in writing.

Question

TEQSA PURPOSE

What is the purpose of TEQSA? What particular problem is TEQSA designed to solve?

Answer

In December 2008, the Review of Australian Higher Education (Bradley Review) identified a need to develop a new approach to quality assurance to underpin both domestic and international confidence in the higher education sector. The Bradley Review noted that it is now time for a single national body to take charge of regulating the whole of the Australian higher education sector in the foreshadowed larger, more diverse, demand driven system.

The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) will be a national body for regulation and quality assurance of the Australian higher education sector. It will accredit providers, carry out audits of standards and performance, protect and quality assure international education, and streamline current regulatory arrangements to reduce duplication and provide for national consistency. It will bring together and build upon functions currently undertaken by the Australian Universities Quality Agency and state and territory governments.

The new regulatory and quality assurance arrangements will ensure that domestic and international students receive a high quality education that meets or exceeds threshold standards. It will provide a solid basis of minimum performance on which all providers can build and diversify.