



Australian Government

Australian Education International

# Quality in Australian Higher Education

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# Transforming Higher Education

“Australia’s universities have a critical part to play in making this country stronger, fairer and more prosperous...

... If we are serious about the future... Then we have to be serious about lifting the capacity and performance of Australia’s universities.”

*Higher Education Joint Ministerial Statement  
House of Representatives, 2 February 2010*

# Transforming Higher Education

- The objectives of the Australian Government's education agenda is to support a higher education system that:
  - Is characterised by quality, diversity and equity of access;
  - Contributes to the development of cultural and intellectual life in Australia; and,
  - Is appropriate to meet Australia's social and economic needs for a highly educated and skilled population.



# Transforming Higher Education

- The Government has set two critical targets for Australian Higher Education –
  - 40 per cent of 25 to 34 year olds will hold a Bachelor's qualification or above by 2025; and,
  - 20 per cent of higher education enrolments at the undergraduate level will be from people from a low socioeconomic background by 2020.
- A key aim of the agenda is to increase the size of the sector while improving both quality and the consistency of regulatory requirements.

# Australian Universities



- Australian universities are autonomous institutions established by Commonwealth, State, or Territory legislation.
- Australian universities are self-accrediting and have the power to accredit courses
- The term ‘university’ is protected under legislation.

# Non-University Private Providers

- While 90% of students attend public institutions, nationally there are over 150 private providers of higher education
- Private colleges and institutes must apply to the relevant Minister for Education for permission to offer higher education awards.



# The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

- The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) is Australia's regulatory and quality agency for higher education.
- [www.teqsa.gov.au](http://www.teqsa.gov.au)

# Principles of Regulation

- **Regulatory necessity:** should not burden a provider any more than necessary
- **Reflecting Risk:** have regard to a provider's history, including its history of compliance
- **Proportionate regulation:** TEQSA exercise of powers proportionate to non-compliance and any future risk



# Higher Education Standards Framework

- TEQSA will register and evaluate the performance of higher education providers against a new Higher Education Standards Framework, comprising:
    - Provider Standards
    - Qualifications Standards
    - Information Standards
    - Teaching and Learning Standards
    - Research Standards
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- Threshold Standards*
- Higher Education Standards Panel

# Australian Qualifications Framework

- The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) is the national policy for regulated qualifications in Australian education and training.
- A single comprehensive national qualifications framework from senior school certificates to doctoral degrees - with defined criteria based on learning outcomes
- [www.aqf.edu.au](http://www.aqf.edu.au)

# Quality in Australian Higher Education / Tertiary Education

- Australian Skills Quality Authority – National VET Regulator
- [www.asqa.gov.au](http://www.asqa.gov.au)
- Interconnected tertiary education sector