Progressing the TEQSA Agenda
Interim CEO Ian Hawke

LH Martin Institute 2010 Conference
Thursday 11 November 2010

“There is an international consensus that the reach, quality and performance of a nation’s higher education system will be key determinants of its economic and social progress. If we are to maintain our high standard of living, underpinned by a robust democracy and a civil and just society, we need an outstanding, internationally competitive higher education system”.

Executive Summary Review of Higher Education
Drivers for a National Regulator

- Review of Higher Education
- Growth and growing complexity
- Market based tertiary system
- Consumer protection – maintenance of quality

New Era for Tertiary Education Quality

- National regulation
- Alignment between higher education, VET and international
- Consistent, streamlined and applicable to all providers
Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

Legislation

• TEQSA legislation expected to introduced into the Parliament before end 2010 and debated in the Autumn sittings of Parliament
• Legislation is the responsibility of Commonwealth Officers
• An Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) is also being negotiated by Commonwealth officers with the State and Territory Governments

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

So, how will TEQSA operate?

• New approach to regulation
  – Risk-based and proportionate
• BUT TEQSA will build on strong foundations
  – Australian Qualifications Quality Agency
  – State and Territory Accreditation Authorities
  – Australian and international best practice
  – Streamline – not duplicate – current practice
So, how will TEQSA operate?

- There will be a Commission of up to five Commissioners (Minister still to agree formally)
- Standards body to be established within, and supported by, the TEQSA organisation but with direct accountability to the Minister (Minister still to agree formally)

So, how will TEQSA operate?

- Rollover of all existing providers with current status maintained
- AUQA will transition into TEQSA and Cycle 2 and other HEP audits will continue
- TEQSA will be able to act at course, cohort, institution or national level
New approach to regulation

Shift in direction to:
- more integrated regulation
- benchmarking against standards
- risk based regulation
- greater power to take action
- sector alignment

Underpinning Principles

- Should not entrench the status quo
- Transparent
- Regulation based on prevention
- Standards based approach
- Regulatory process has real consequences
Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

**TEQSA and the NVR working together**

- Developing a consistent and aligned approach
- Interim Chair and Interim CEOs working closely together
- Agencies to be co-located, to assist in joint best practice approach
- View to potential merger from 2013

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

**TEQSA and the NVR working together**

Working collaboratively on:

- An examination of offshore provision and how TEQSA and the NVR wish to approach this approach quality assurance and regulation in this space
- An examination of the regulatory burden on dual sector providers
What TEQSA is not

- A complaint handling body (though complaints more broadly may provide evidence to inform targeted regulatory and quality assurance activities)
- A dispute resolution body
- A court of appeal for arbitration or failed conciliations
- TEQSA will not ‘franchise’ its regulatory responsibilities

Next steps – short term

- TEQSA legislation introduced
  - Determine degree of specificity in legislation about the regulatory framework
- Finalise policy underpinning
  - Provider standards
  - Risk framework
- Corporate Establishment
Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

Next steps – medium term

- Nature of TEQSA’s approach to regulation - balance between compliance and improvement activities
- Risk framework
- Timelines for when TEQSA will begin to operate (July 2011?) and, then, as a regulator (Jan 2012?). When TEQSA commences as the regulator, State and Territory regulatory activities will cease
- Transition of GAA and AUQA functions

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

Next steps – medium term

- Precise relationship with regulation of international education
- Regulation of dual sector providers
- Relationship of TEQSA information requirements with those of Commonwealth as funder and any new requirements for the MyUniversity website
- Who owns MyUniversity website (was announced as coming to TEQSA once built)
Next steps - longer term

- Process for developing teaching and learning, research and information standards
- Developing guides to TEQSA’s regulatory approaches including risk framework
- Movement to a single tertiary regulator

Approach to consultation

- TEQSA’s general approach to consultation will be to identify areas where consultation is necessary, develop draft principles and/or detailed proposals and consult with the sector nationally.
- Peak bodies will be the point of contact.
- The process of consultation is likely to differ depending upon the nature of the issue. Paper based feedback will be preceded by or augmented by national workshops and forums when it is an issue of principle or when feedback shows there are significant differences of opinion.
QUESTIONS?