Mr Martin Riordan  
Chief Executive Officer  
TAFE Directors Australia  
PO Box 707  
BROADWAY NSW 2007

Dear Mr Riordan,

I am writing to you in relation to the first Threshold Standards for the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA). TEQSA began operating in a quality assurance capacity on 30 July 2011 and will commence its regulatory functions on 30 January 2012.

TEQSA will register and evaluate the performance of higher education providers against the new Higher Education Standards Framework which will comprise five domains: Provider Standards; Qualification Standards; Teaching and Learning Standards; Research Standards and Information Standards.

All higher education providers must meet the Threshold Standards (Provider Standards and Qualification Standards) to be registered and operate as a higher education provider in Australia.

To provide regulatory certainty and to allow for TEQSA to commence its regulatory functions on 30 January 2012, the TEQSA legislation provides that I, as the Minister for Tertiary Education, will make the first Threshold Standards. The legislation also provides that, before making such standards, I consult with interested parties. TAFE Directors Australia has been an active participant in the consultation to date on the standards and I would like to thank you and your colleagues for this engagement.

The draft of the Provider Standards has been prepared based on the National Protocols and National Guidelines for Higher Education Approval Processes and takes account of over 14 months of constructive feedback provided by the education sector as well as state and territory governments.

Development of the draft Qualification Standards has taken place in close collaboration with the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Council to ensure the standards reflect the strengthened AQF which was endorsed by the Ministerial Council of Tertiary Education and Employment in March 2011.
I now present to you the final draft of the Threshold Standards and ask that you provide any feedback to tegsa@deewr.gov.au by **25 November 2011**.

Following consideration of any feedback received I then intend to make the Threshold Standards and register them with the Federal Register for Legislative Instruments by 9 December 2011.

Thank you for taking the time to assist in developing the first Threshold Standards.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

CHRIS EVANS

- 7 NOV 2011