TEQSA ANNOUNCES ITS REGULATORY SCHEDULE FOR 2012

Dr Carol Nicoll, Chief Commissioner of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency, today announced the Agency’s regulatory schedule for 2012.

“The Commission has now been in place for seven weeks. During this time, we have been working to develop TEQSA’s regulatory schedule for higher education providers for our first year of operation.”

“TEQSA’s approach will give effect to the core principles in our enabling legislation: the principles of regulatory necessity; reflecting risk; and proportionate regulation.”

Dr Nicoll acknowledged that the transition to the new regulatory environment may be a challenging one, particularly for those institutions that will be undergoing a registration process for the first time, or have a re-registration or course accreditation due in 2012.

All institutions that are regulated by TEQSA will be subject to a preliminary risk scan in early 2012. This will necessarily be based on a limited set of core data, drawing on existing information within the sector. More detailed risk evaluations commencing later in 2012 will require the collection of additional information from all providers. TEQSA will liaise with governments, ASQA and providers to ensure that wherever possible additional information requirements avoid duplication and are consistent with the principle of regulatory necessity.

TEQSA’s approach to registration of providers, course accreditation and its policy and procedure for providers to notify TEQSA of major changes will be available in January 2012. TEQSA is also responsible for establishing and maintaining a National Register of Higher Education Providers. The National Register will be accessible on the TEQSA website from 29 January 2012.

“Cycle 2 Audits, commenced under the previous Australian Universities Quality Agency, will not continue for any provider scheduled for an audit in 2012” she said. “Those providers previously scheduled for audit in 2012 are also due to be re-registered by TEQSA in 2012.”

“The Commission has taken this decision recognising that the potential burden of both a Cycle 2 audit and a re-registration process would not be consistent with the new principles for regulation, particularly that of regulatory necessity and proportionality.”

“This does not diminish the crucial role of quality assurance and improvement for our higher education providers or the work that has already gone into the development of institutional portfolios and preparation for an audit visit.”
For any institution that would like to know how this will affect their work plans for 2012, please contact enquiries@teqsa.gov.au.

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