

TEQSA's 'Core +' model for course accreditation

ACPET submission

April 2015

Introduction

Established in 1992, ACPET is the national industry association for private providers of post-compulsory education and training. ACPET has over 1,000 members nationally who deliver a range of higher education, vocational education and training (VET) and English language courses across all states and territories and internationally. Some 100 members are registered higher education providers.

ACPET's mission is to enhance quality, greater choice and innovation in Australian education and skills training. ACPET members include commercial and not-for-profit entities, community groups, industry providers and enterprise-based organisations. ACPET works with governments, industries and community organisations to ensure higher education and VET are well targeted, accessible, and delivered to a high standard.

ACPET is committed to promoting improvement in the efficacy of the higher education sector and support for quality providers. The provision of high quality courses provided by high quality providers will ensure high quality workers for industry.

Question 1 – Agreement with the proposed 'Core+' Model

ACPET agrees with the proposed 'Core +' model and highlights the following points.

ACPET support's TEQSA regulating against a strong set of coherent Provider Course Accreditation Standards that address course design, delivery and outcomes. At the same time ACPET recognises that, for existing providers with a sound record in meeting the accreditation and provider standards, a risk management approach is appropriate.

Such an approach will not only recognise the performance and commitment of these providers but also reduce duplication of effort and 'red tape'. It will be consistent with TEQSA's current approach to provider re-registration which, based on consultation with higher education member representatives, is working effectively.

The consultation paper identifies that decisions around the application of the proposed Core+ model will be based on an institutional risk assessment of the provider, student data against risk indicators and other aspects relevant to the application. While ACPET supports this case management approach, it is important that appropriate efforts are made to comprehensively articulate any additional information requests of providers in support of their application in a timely manner. Repeated or delayed requests for information will only serve to undermine the intent of the proposed model.

To ensure there are no unnecessary delays, clear timeframes for supplying, and responding to, information would help ensure the benefits of the model are maximised.

Question 2 - Appropriate core standards and evidence

ACPET agrees with the proposed core standards and evidence requirements.