Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency legislation released

The Gillard Government has today released for public comment the draft of legislation establishing the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA).

The *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Bill 2011* establishes TEQSA and a new national regulatory and quality assurance environment for Australian higher education.

“This is important legislation for the future of higher education in Australia and it is important that it be subjected to scrutiny and debate,” Senator Evans said.

“As the higher education sector goes through a period of expansion, it is important for Australia to have a national system of regulation to assure the quality of all providers.

“A national approach is vital so that all students, domestic and international, can be assured of the quality of their education.”

TEQSA will combine the regulatory activity currently undertaken in the states and territories with the quality assurance activities currently undertaken by the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA).

In so doing, it will reduce the number of federal, state and territory regulatory and quality assurance bodies from nine to one.

The establishment of TEQSA was a key recommendation of the Bradley Review of Higher Education.

The public exposure process builds on the closed consultations undertaken in November and December 2010 with officials representing state and territory governments and representatives of peak stakeholder groups.

Following the public exposure process, the Government will introduce the TEQSA legislation to the Parliament in the week commencing 21 March 2011 and will also refer the TEQSA legislation to the Senate Committee on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations for inquiry.


The closing date for submissions on the exposure draft is Thursday 10 March, 2011.

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