

## Media Release —

### **Australia Gets Its First University College – Avondale College of Higher Education**

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For Immediate Release

The peak body representing independent higher education providers, the Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia (ITECA) has congratulated Avondale College of Higher Education, a valued ITECA member, on its registration as an ‘Australian University College’ by the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA).

“Avondale has worked extremely hard over many years to achieve university college status, and it’s testimony to their excellence in quality delivery of education and long-term strategic planning,” said Troy Williams, ITECA Chief Executive Officer.

Avondale has been working towards being granted university status since the 1970s, starting with accreditation for degree programs and then since the 1990s developing a suite of postgraduate degree programs, culminating in 2006 with accreditation to award Doctor of Philosophy degrees.

In 2013, Avondale negotiated a relationship with Charles Sturt University in which the university agreed to become a mentoring partner. Mutual recognition of each institution’s academic programs led to the dual badging of Avondale’s graduation testamurs as Avondale and Charles Sturt qualifications.

In 2014, Avondale became the first Australian non-university higher education provider to be granted full self-accrediting authority. In 2015, Avondale became a leader in quality assurance for the private higher education sector by developing the Higher Education Private Provider Quality Network (HEPP-QN), which now involves forty institutions collaborating to foster excellence in their higher education programs.

On 28 August 2019 Avondale College celebrated the next step in its evolution when TEQSA, the Commonwealth’s higher education regulator, approved a change of category application lodged by Avondale, from “Higher Education Provider” to “Australian University College.”

“Registration of Avondale as an Australian University College is a positive step for the prestige of independent post-secondary education options for students. It showcases what quality independent higher education providers are capable of,” Mr Williams said.

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