

## Media Release —

### ASQA Legislative Reform Starts To Address Governance Concerns

For Immediate Release  
13 February 2020

Legislation introduced into the parliament today that reforms the governance arrangements of the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), has been welcomed by the Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia (ITECA), the peak body representing independent providers in the higher education, vocational training and skills sectors.

“For some time ITECA members have argued that ASQA’s governance arrangements created an environment in which the regulator was neither accountable to, nor fully engaged with, the vocational education and training sector. The legislative amendments presented to the parliament today starts the process of addressing these governance concerns,” said Troy Williams, ITECA Chief Executive.

The legislation is the *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Amendment (Governance and Other Matters) Bill 2020* that, if passed, amends the *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011 (Cth)*. It will delivery two important reforms:

#### **ASQA New Management Structure —**

The amendments revise ASQA’s governance structure, replacing the existing Chief Commissioner / Chief Executive Officer and two Commissioners with a single independent statutory office holder. The intended outcome is that these amendments will enable ASQA to perform a role more consistent with that of an agency head, including leading the long and short-term strategy and making top-level managerial decisions that determine the objectives, resources and policies of the regulator.

#### **ASQA Advisory Council —**

The Bill establishes the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Advisory Council (Advisory Council). The Advisory Council will provide the ASQA with access to expert advice regarding the functions of the regulator.

“The proposal to augment ASQA’s governance by implementing an Expert Advisory Council is an important step in the evolution of the authority and is supported by ITECA’s members,” Mr Williams said.

ITECA was pleased at the level of stakeholder engagement facilitated by the Australian Government in the processes leading up to this bill being presented to the parliament. This has seen many of the concerns raised addressed in this series of legislative reforms.

“Although there are still significant improvements to be made, the Bill starts to deal with the underlying issues that remain a priority for ITECA’s members in the vocational education and training sector,” Mr Williams said.

The work of ASQA is important to the independent tertiary education sector that supports more than 70% of the 4.1 million students undertaking a vocational education and training program.

Ends.

Media Contact:  
Michellé Mabile – ITECA Communications Director  
e: [media@iteca.edu.au](mailto:media@iteca.edu.au) m: 0436 522 189  
[ITECA Ref: N5.1.2]

