

Media Release —

ASQA & TEQSA Fees Decision Welcomed By Independent Providers

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For Immediate Release

The Australian Government has decided to set aside the fees and charges levied by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) and the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) to help independent providers deal with the fall-out from the Covid19 crisis. It follows strong and successful advocacy by the Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia (ITECA), the peak body representing independent providers in the higher education, vocational education, training and skills sectors.

“ITECA’s advice to the Australian Government is clear, quality independent providers are struggling to deal with the outcomes from the Covid19 crisis. They are challenged with the task of assisting students, supporting their staff and keeping their doors open, thus the Australian Government needs to step-up and back the sector, and that’s what this decision does,” said Troy Williams, ITECA Chief Executive.

The Australian Government has announced that the fees and charges for providers registered with either ASQA or TEQSA from 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2021 will be waived. The regulators will reimburse fees already paid by providers.

“ITECA lobbied for a reduction in fees and charges levied by ASQA and TEQSA so it’s great that the Australian Government has listened to ITECA’s call to support our members,” Mr Williams said.

ITECA has also lobbied the Australian Government to delay the planned transition of ASQA and TEQSA to full cost-recovery, something that would have seen quality independent providers face an additional raft of fees and charges levied by the regulators. The Australian Government has also accepted this advice.

“This wasn’t the time for ASQA and TEQSA to grab more cash from quality independent providers. Right now, as a community, we want quality providers to have available to them the resources required to support their students. The Australian Government’s decision to delay the transition to full cost recovery does this,” Mr Williams said.

The Australian Government’s decision on ASQA and TEQSA fees and charges follows strong advocacy by ITECA designed to support the nation’s quality independent tertiary education providers.

Recommendations to support the sector are set out in the *COVID19 Response – Backing Independent Tertiary Education* action plan prepared by ITECA following extensive consultation with members.

“We’ve asked the Australian Government to step-up and back the independent tertiary education sector. To date, the government’s response has been pretty good and we continue to negotiate further support measures with them,” Mr Williams said.

Independent providers support around 80% of the 4.1 million students in vocational education and training and around 10% of the 1.5 million students in higher education.

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Media Contact:

Michellé Mabile – ITECA Communications Director
e: media@iteca.edu.au m: 0436 522 189

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