

TERTIARY EDUCATION QUALITY AND STANDARDS AGENCY

The Federal Government announced in its 2009 budget the creation of a Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) which will take responsibility for the whole of higher education in 2010. The government hopes by 2013 the vocational education sector will also come under the responsibility of the new agency. Currently, external quality assurance for the nation's 39 universities and some other higher education institutions is handled by the Australian Universities Quality Agency. Responsibility for the other 150 non-university institutions (known as non self-accrediting institutions or NSAs) is shared among the state, territory and federal governments. It is envisaged that TEQSA will take over the roles of audit, accreditation and standards work under the current system as well as oversee the Australian Qualifications Framework (currently being revised), and the data collection task of the Federal department of education, among other functions.

David Woodhouse: *University World News*, 31/05/2009

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