



Higher Education Standards Panel

Communique Number 7 – March 2013

Introduction

Welcome to the seventh Communique from the Higher Education Standards Panel (the Panel). The purpose of this Communique is to inform the sector of progress with the technical amendments to the *Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2011*.

Technical amendments made to current Threshold Standards

A series of technical amendments have been made to the Threshold Standards by the Commonwealth Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Science and Research. The amendments were made on the advice of the Panel and following the Minister's consultations, and are separate from the comprehensive review of the Threshold Standards being undertaken by the Panel.

The amendments are based on a number of technical errors in the current Threshold Standards that were brought to the attention of the Panel in 2012. The amendments make the following corrections to the current Threshold Standards:

- address previous anomalies concerning qualifications required for supervision of higher degree students (Provider Course Accreditation Standards 4.2)
- clarify that compliance with the Australian Qualifications Framework may be included on the testamur *or* the graduation statement (Qualification Standards 2.1.1)
- omit and substitute the heading 'Financial viability and safeguards' with 'Financial viability and sustainability' (provider Registration Standards 2)
- clarify the grounds for issuing a statement of attainment (Qualifications Standards 2.4), and
- make a number of editorial revisions.

The instrument (<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2013L00194>) amending the framework came into force on the 16 February 2013. The superseded legislative instrument was titled the *Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2011*, however, the amendments have been registered under the *TEQSA Act 2011*.

For further information, please refer to the Higher Education Standards website: <http://www.HEstandards.gov.au>

Providing Feedback to the Panel

If you wish to provide feedback on any matter raised in this or any other communique, or on other matters to do with developing standards, the Panel can be contacted at any time via the Higher Education Standards Executive at:

EMAIL ADDRESS info@HEstandards.gov.au

The Panel is grateful for the cooperation and support it has received to date and looks forward to continuing to engage with the sector and other stakeholders.

Alan Robson
Chair, Higher Education Standards Panel
March 2013

Distribution of Communiques

It would be helpful if the existing addressees of the Panel's communiques could look to passing the communiques on to interested parties within their constituencies. Anyone who wishes to be added to the distribution list can contact the email address above. Copies of communiques will be uploaded to the Panel's website as soon as practicable after distribution.