

On 18 December 2018, the Department of Education and Training published the advice of the Higher Education Standards Panel on tackling contract cheating, for comment by the higher education sector. Comments were due on 1 March 2019. 29 submissions were received. A list of those that provided submissions is included below.

- Overall, stakeholders strongly support the development of legislation to make the provision or advertising of cheating services an offence. Many comments supported the HESP and Government position that penalties not be aimed at students, with some suggestions about a range of types of services that should be captured. Stakeholders expressed a keen desire for further engagement and consultation on the detail of the legislation.
- There were mixed responses to the recommendation about developing a template statement of commitment for students to sign. Most endorsed the concept in principle, with some considering a united whole-of-sector position is important to demonstrate the seriousness with which the issue of cheating is viewed. Many comments noted that most institutions already have processes in place requiring students to commit to ethical academic practices and affirm that each piece of work they submit is their own. Some felt a template statement of commitment will be of most benefit to non-university providers who need guidance about good practice in this area, or as part of a broader educative strategy. Again, stakeholders reinforced a desire to be involved in any development of a student statement of commitment.
 - During development of this product, consideration can be given to nomenclature – e.g. ‘model’ vs. ‘template’ – to address some concerns; and to reinforce the underlying purpose is to provide clearer baseline evidence of prior commitment where later transgressions are detected or in contention. The template statement is one element of the response within a suite of institution actions that together underpin a strong culture of academic integrity.
- There was strong support from stakeholders for TEQSA to play a key role in overseeing the implementation of the legislation, as well as taking on a broader educative and leadership role on the issue of organised cheating. The need for greater collaboration between providers and TEQSA to share and facilitate sharing of information about cheating services was emphasised, including the suggestion of developing a register of detected cheating services and a professional network of integrity practitioners across the sector. There were some suggestions on research and technology development that TEQSA may wish to consider.
- Other feedback received included:
 - A multi-faceted approach, undertaken in partnership between higher education providers and government, is needed to tackle this critical issue
 - Improving assessment design and execution is important to deter and prevent cheating
 - Educating staff and students about the issue, and forging a culture of integrity is essential
 - Sophisticated cheating services that target vulnerable students and mask their activities as “study support” can make it difficult for students and universities to identify what is a legitimate tutoring activity and what is cheating
 - There are particular issues associated with international students, for whom English language competency, social isolation, and pressure to succeed at their studies while also working to send money back home, are contributing factors to contract cheating
 - The emergence of blackmail against students who have previously accessed cheating services as a growing organised criminal threat.

List of submissions received

	Name
1	Australian Catholic University
2	Australian National University
3	Central Queensland University
4	Deakin University
5	Professor Phillip Dawson , Deakin University
6	Griffith University
7	Monash University
8	Queensland University of Technology
9	RMIT University
10	Swinburne University of technology
11	University of Notre Dame Australia
12	University of Newcastle
13	University of Queensland
14	Dr Tracey Bretag, University of South Australia
15	University of South Australia
16	University of Sydney
17	University of Technology Sydney
18	Western Sydney University
19	University of Wollongong
20	Study Group Australia
21	Universities Australia
22	Independent Higher Education Australia
23	Group of Eight
24	University of South Australia Student Association
25	National Union of Students
26	Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations
27	Ryan Kennealy
28	NSW Department of Education and Training
29	Isaac Balbin