



Memorandum of Understanding

1. Parties

The parties to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) are the Commonwealth of Australia as represented by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Consortium (NATSIHEC).

1.1 TEQSA was established under the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011* (TEQSA Act) as the national regulator for Australia's higher education sector. TEQSA's functions are set out in section 134 of the TEQSA Act. TEQSA is also an ESOS Agency responsible for higher education courses, foundation programs and some ELICOS under the *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000*.

1.2 The NATSIHEC goals are to:

- a. progress, elevate and secure – past, present and future Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Knowledges to influence western education institutions (universities); and
- b. increase the availability of higher education for our communities and to develop and grow research and scholarship for and by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

2. Purpose

TEQSA and NATSIHEC agree to cooperate for the benefit of both parties. This MOU is not intended to create legally binding relations between the parties, and neither party has the authority to act on behalf of or otherwise bind the other party.

3. Areas of cooperation

TEQSA and NATSIHEC agree to cooperate in ways including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. To exchange non-confidential policy documents about their approaches to accreditation, quality assurance and regulation;
- b. To the extent permitted by law, to enable dialogue and information sharing to assist the parties to perform their functions. The parties acknowledge that TEQSA's capacity to disclose information about entities regulated by TEQSA is restricted by Division 2 of Part 10 of the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011*;
- c. To ensure effective frameworks are implemented for assessing higher education providers ability to meet standards 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 of the Higher Education Standards Framework 2015 (Threshold Standards);
- d. To explore the relationships between the requirements for accreditation by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC) and the Threshold Standards, as they relate to Indigenous higher education; and
- e. Other means of cooperation agreed between the parties from time to time.

4. Term

This MOU will take effect from the date on which it is signed by both parties and shall continue for three years, unless it is terminated by the provision of three months' notice by either party. It may be extended on the mutual agreement of both parties.

5. Variation

This MOU may be altered with the written agreement of both parties.

6. Liaison

The following officials will be the main points of contact between the parties:

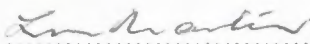
- a. TEQSA – Dr Karen Treloar, Director (Engagement), karen.treloar@teqsa.gov.au, 03 8306 2430.
- b. NATSIHEC – Associate Professor Claire Anderson, Vice President Teaching and Learning Portfolio, clair.andersen@utas.edu.au

Contact may occur between other members of staff nominated by their respective agencies in relation to particular areas of cooperation.

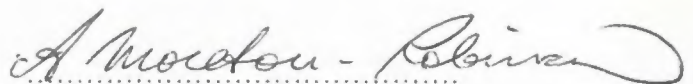
7. Resources

Unless alternative arrangements are specifically agreed to undertake particular activities, the two agencies will normally cover their own costs of implementing the terms of the MOU.

Signed on [16 NOVEMBER 2018]



Dr Lin Martin
Commissioner
For and on behalf of TEQSA



Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson
President
For and on behalf of NATSIHEC