



# Supporting Australia's International Education Sector

## Regulatory fee relief

On 30 April 2021 the Australian Government announced a package of measures to support the Australian international education and training providers most affected by COVID-19 and border closures. This package includes extending the **waiver of certain fees for ASQA, TEQSA and CRICOS registrations** for a further six months to 31 December 2021.

An initial 18 months of regulatory fee relief, from 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2021, was part of the Government's Higher Education COVID-19 Relief Package.

Extending fee relief to 31 December 2021 will allow providers to retain those funds within their businesses, allowing them to focus on their students and on continuing the work of positioning their operations for recovery.

### Which fees are being waived?

Fees and charges issued or due to be issued from 1 July 2021 through to 31 December 2021 will be waived for existing accredited course owners and providers currently registered with the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) or on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS).

All existing registered providers will be eligible, but new higher education and VET provider applicants will still pay registration assessment fees. Details about which particular fees and charges are covered by the waiver are published on the regulators' respective websites.

### Start Date

The current regulatory fee relief is set to end on 30 June 2021. The extension will extend fee relief for a further six months, to 31 December 2021. No action is required of providers and fees will automatically be waived.

## **Impact on moves to increased cost recovery for TEQSA, ASQA**

The planned move to increase cost recovery for both TEQSA and ASQA that was scheduled to commence on 1 July 2021 has also been delayed to 1 January 2022.

TEQSA's increased cost recovery will be phased in over three years as previously announced but will include reductions to course accreditation fees for providers with less than 5,000 enrolled students (equivalent full-time student load) to support innovation and responsiveness in course design.

TEQSA and ASQA will consult with higher education and training providers on their revised cost recovery models.

Revised cost recovery arrangements for registrations on CRICOS, scheduled for introduction from 1 July 2021, will now also commence from 1 January 2022.

### **Further Information**

[www.asqa.gov.au](http://www.asqa.gov.au)

[www.teqsa.gov.au](http://www.teqsa.gov.au)