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Mr Robert Latta
Branch Manager
Governance, Quality and Access Branch
Department of Education and Training
Email: highered@education.gov.au

Dear Mr Latta

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (Prohibiting Academic Cheating Services) Bill 2019

CQUniversity welcomes the opportunity to contribute its comments to the draft of the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (Prohibiting Academic Cheating Services) Bill 2019*. The introduction of legislation against cheating services

CQUniversity supports the intent and provisions of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Amendment (Prohibiting Academic Cheating Services) Bill 2019. The Bill enacts the recommendations of the Higher Education Standards Panel (HESP) review of contract cheating that aim to curb the use of contract cheating in the higher education sector.

CQUniversity has some general comments regarding the bill, as detailed below.

Preventing contract cheating in education and training broadly

There is an opportunity to legislate more broadly to prevent contract cheating in education and training in all sectors.

The proposed bill provides TEQSA with a role in 'preventing and minimising the use and promotion of academic cheating services.'

The bill does not provide ASQA with an equivalent responsibility for ensuring the integrity of training and assessment in the VET sector, yet it is also at risk of contract cheating given trainees are required to submit pieces of assessment that could be contracted to or undertaken by third parties. ASQA should be similarly empowered as TEQSA to act against contract cheating services that service the VET sector.

A similar situation exists for school students undertaking school work, particularly in the last two years of school. School education authorities should also be empowered to act against contract cheating companies that operate in the school education sector.

Non-remunerated contract cheating

CQUniversity recommends that friends or relatives who write assignments for students, without money changing hands, should also be covered by the civil provisions in the proposed legislation. Friends or relatives who undertake assessment tasks in lieu of a student have the same net impact on academic integrity as a contract cheating company. Therefore, the legislation should not distinguish between paid and unpaid contract cheating as both are equally pernicious in their impacts on the integrity of higher education study and courses.

CQUniversity would also like to see clarification on the following points:

- that owners of locations where providers have displayed unauthorised advertisements will be exempt from prosecution;
- a clear process identified for initiating and prosecuting an investigation; and
- that allocation is ongoing from the 2018-19 budget to the 2019-20 budget to resource TEQSA in its role to administer the new legislation and undertake a comprehensive education campaign once the bill has been passed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft bill. Should you have any questions regarding the contents of this submission, please contact Professor Helen Huntly, Provost via email at h.huntly@cqu.edu.au.

Yours sincerely



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