

The path to renewal of registration

Greg Whateley and Tom O'Connor

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Renewal of Registration is the process of having an existing institution – in this case in the higher education sector – re-registered for up to seven years. Our own institution having been registered for the maximum seven-year period in April 2019 is due for renewal in April 2026 by the Sector Regulator (TEQSA). There has been a shift in recent times away from completing a Confirmed Evidence Table (CET) to a self-assurance model. Our personal view is that this is a positive move in the right direction.

Self-assurance

The whole process is about demonstrating that adequate self-reflection has been undertaken and that the Higher Education Framework Standards 2021 (Threshold Standards) have and are being met. This is evidenced in responding to the standards - but more importantly - demonstrating that regular self-assurance audits have been undertaken – and this requires providing the relevant evidence. Our own institution has been focused on these 'rolling audits' for some and this in turn makes providing the evidence more convincing and considerably easier.

See – Threshold Standards Audit (v3 July 2025) -
[8776b7_b259b8d2f2be4448bd4c2c3bda0a0fa2.pdf](#)

Focus on certain standards

The renewal of registration process has a particular focus – Threshold Standard 6 – and its sub standards specifically. Standard 6 is about the specification of an accountable governing body with some elaboration of its key governance roles; specific corporate accountabilities to be demonstrated by the provider, which the governing body assures itself are met; and requirements for academic oversight of a provider's higher education activities. This is very much about corporate governance.

See – Corporate Governance at AGE (v8 July 2025) -
[8776b7_c8dfc694f7704242837e6d18d8f1f9d6.pdf](#)

Documentation required

The shift from CET to Self-assurance calls for a significantly smaller number of submissions – and wherever possible links in place of pdfs. The key documents include – a cover note; a self-assurance document (limited to ten pages); a risk management overview; a five-year financial projection; and an independent expert review on governance. A key addition to any submission – now – is an index of supporting documentation that is available and can be called upon as needed. This is a shift away from multiple documents - to a carefully selected and curated set.

See – How to apply to renew provider registration - [How to apply to renew provider registration | Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency](#)

The significance of the Expert Report

Private providers (in particular) are required to employ a suitable independent expert to consider the governance protocols in place and where needed make some suggestions and/or recommendations for improvement. The process is robust and informative. Having ‘expert eyes’ consider the situation is extremely useful and provides some motivating directions – that were perhaps not considered or overlooked.

Renewal of registration is a simpler process to initial registration – and rightly so. Given that the provider to be considered for renewal of registration has been in operation for some time (in our case seven years) – the real effort is around ensuring currency and relevance rather than making radical changes.

Emeritus Profess Greg Whateley is currently Chief Executive Officer and Executive Dean at the Australian Guild of Education (Melbourne)

Associate Professor Tom O'Connor is currently Academic Director at the Australian Guild of Education (Melbourne)