

## APPENDIX B.5 EDUCATION AND TRAINING

### Summary

Education and Training reported 23 measures<sup>1</sup> during the year, with a total net regulatory saving of \$196.8 million per year.

In 2015, the Education and Training portfolio achieved regulatory savings across all major areas of work. In September 2015, Early Childhood and Child Care returned to the portfolio as a result of machinery of government changes. In December 2015 the portfolio's regulators – Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), and Education Services for Overseas Students (for Schools) – published the way they will assess their performance under the Regulator Performance Framework.

### Regulatory measures reported since the 2015 Spring Repeal Day<sup>2</sup>

#### With an impact of greater than \$2 million

Education and  
Training

#### Revised Higher Education Standards Framework

- On 12 October 2015, the Minister for Education and Training tabled a revised Higher Education Standards Framework, formally titled the *Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015*, in the Parliament. The Framework will take effect from 1 January 2017 as a legislative instrument.
- The new standards reduce the regulatory requirements of the TEQSA through increased clarity concerning the expectations of providers and also cover issues missing from the current standards such as information for students, learning, teaching and research. The existing Standards posed difficulties for both providers and the regulator in their interpretation and in demonstrating compliance.
- The OBPR has agreed that this will lead to an annual saving of \$2.5 million in compliance costs.

<sup>1</sup> Measures counted here only include decisions with a regulatory impact. Measures with a zero regulatory impact have been excluded.

<sup>2</sup> These measure descriptions relate to new decisions taken and reported between the Spring 2015 Repeal Day and 31 December 2015. Descriptions of regulatory increases or regulatory decreases generally capture those measures with a regulatory change in excess of \$2 million per annum.

---

Education and  
Training

Streamlining university research block grants

---

- On 7 December 2015, the Minister for Education and Training announced sharper incentives for research funding as part of the National Innovation and Science Agenda.
  - This measure introduces new Research Block Grant funding arrangements for universities. From 1 January 2017, the existing six schemes will be consolidated into two new simpler programmes. The new arrangements remove the collection of research publications as a measure for allocating funding. As a result, universities will no longer be required to classify and collect research publications data and provide this to the Department annually for the purpose of allocating Research Block Grant funding.
  - The OBPR has agreed that this will lead to an annual saving of \$9.3 million in compliance costs.
-

Education and Training	Strengthening the Vocational Education and Training (VET) system through FEE-HELP Reforms
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 11 December 2015, the Higher Education Support Amendment (VET FEE-HELP Reform) Bill 2015 received Royal Assent.</li> <li>• VET FEE-HELP Reforms are aimed at strengthening and safeguarding the VET system from unscrupulous providers focussed on monetary gain at the expense of VET quality. Providers will face increased regulatory burdens through changes to practices, reporting and systems. Students will also face some additional regulatory requirements. Changes to the programme will impact on eligibility of providers and students.</li> <li>• This is estimated to lead to an overall reduction in student enrolments and moderated growth in the sector resulting in net regulatory savings. The reforms ensure vulnerable students, taxpayers, and the reputation of Australia’s high quality VET system are protected, whilst also ensuring students can still access this important scheme.</li> <li>• The OBPR has agreed that this will lead to an annual saving of \$26.4 million in compliance costs.</li> </ul>
Education and Training	Automation in child care management reporting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 2 December 2015, the Minister for Vocational Education and Skills introduced the Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Jobs for Families Child Care Package) Bill 2015.</li> <li>• From July 2017, the Child Care Subsidy will replace the Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Rebate. The Child Care Subsidy will provide financial assistance to meet the cost of child care for parents engaged in work, training, study or other recognised activity.</li> <li>• Reductions in compliance costs will arise from developments in Information and Communication Technology systems that will allow parents to electronically record the times their child attends a child care service. This data will streamline the reporting processes for services as they will no longer need to manually alter session of care data in their child care management software.</li> <li>• The OBPR has agreed that this will lead to an annual saving of \$103.7 million in compliance costs.</li> </ul>

Education and Training	SmartForm implementation for the Australian Apprenticeship Programme
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In early April 2015, Australian Apprenticeship Programme SmartForms were loaded onto the Ausindustry system.</li> <li>• The SmartForms initiative provides substantial red tape savings for business to government transactions by providing a mechanism for government agencies to make their forms available online. This reduces the time and administrative cost associated with businesses completing and submitting paper forms. Time savings are derived through pre-population with previously provided data; web service integration to access and link interagency information; online payment facilities and integrated workflows.</li> <li>• The OBPR has agreed that this will lead to an annual saving of \$2.1 million in compliance costs.</li> </ul>
Education and Training	Measuring impact and engagement in university research
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 7 December 2015, as part of the National Innovation and Science Agenda, the Minister for Education and Training announced a national assessment programme to measure the benefit of investment in university research.</li> <li>• Australian universities will be required to provide new information to government on the impacts arising from their research.</li> <li>• The government will introduce transparent measures of the economic and social benefits of university research. Engagement with industry and other end users will also be assessed.</li> <li>• The methodology will be determined through a consultation process in 2017.</li> <li>• The OBPR has agreed that this will lead to an annual increase of \$2.9 million in compliance costs.</li> </ul>

## 2015 regulatory measures, previously reported in conjunction with the Autumn and Spring Repeal Days

The measures below are reproductions of the 2015 Autumn and Spring Repeal Day overview descriptions and have not been amended<sup>3</sup>. Where necessary, supplementary information is shown as blue text.

Education and Training	Enhancing the quality of Australia's international education services (Spring)
------------------------	--

- On 17 September 2015 the Minister for Education and Training introduced the Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment (Streamlining Regulation) Bill 2015.
- The Bill, along with other amendments to the *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000*, will remove unnecessary and duplicative regulatory requirements on education institutions and students. It will align domestic and international regulatory arrangements, and streamline the processes around registration, reducing the burden on providers. The measures included in the Bill will remove the requirement to report student defaults within a very short period; remove the requirement for non-exempt (generally private) institutions to maintain a designated account for tuition fees paid prior to course commencement; and make the current limit on the collection of tuition fees prior to a student commencing a course more flexible to enable student choice.
- The Department has estimated that this will lead to an annual saving of \$75.9 million in compliance costs.

**Further update:**

- **Prior to passing the Parliament, the Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment (Streamlining Regulation) Bill 2015 and the Education Services for Overseas Students (Registration Charges) Amendment (Streamlining Regulation) Bill 2015 were amended to maintain the requirement for non-exempt (generally private) institutions to keep a designated account for tuition fees paid prior to course commencement.**
- **The Department has estimated that these changes will reduce the previously reported regulatory annual saving in compliance costs from \$75.9 million to \$48.2 million.**

<sup>3</sup> To align this table with the 2015 calendar year, any measures accounted for in the previous annual report have been excluded.

Education and Training	Extending registration periods for registered training organisations (Spring)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 3 April 2015 amendments to the <i>National Vocational and Education Training Regulator Act 2011</i> commenced.</li> <li>• The changes extend the maximum registration period for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) from five to seven years. This reduces the burden placed on RTOs by reducing the frequency of re-registration audits and enables the national vocational education and training regulator – the Australian Skills Quality Authority – to redirect resources towards the early detection of non-compliance.</li> <li>• The Department has estimated that this will lead to an annual saving of \$3.9 million in compliance costs.</li> </ul>
Education and Training	Promoting excellence in higher education learning and teaching (Spring)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 12 May 2015 the Minister announced the redesign of the Promotion of Excellence in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education programme (PELTHE).</li> <li>• The Government will invite bids from universities to run a new \$28 million institute to promote high quality teaching and learning in Australian universities. From 1 July 2016 the new institute will allow the sector itself to lead the promotion of excellence and creativity in learning and teaching. The number of grant and award categories will be reduced, with the focus shifting to those considered to have the greatest potential impact for the sector.</li> <li>• The OBPR has agreed that this will lead to an annual saving of \$4.4 million in compliance costs.</li> </ul>

## **International standards and risk assessments**

As part of the Industry Innovation and Competitiveness Agenda announced in October 2014, the Government adopted the principle that if a system, service or product has been approved under a trusted international standard or risk assessment, then Australian regulators should not impose any additional requirements for approval in Australia, unless it can be demonstrated that there is a good reason for doing so.

The Department of Education and Training has developed criteria for assessing opportunities for the acceptance or adoption of trusted standards and assessments which are published on-line:

<http://www.education.gov.au/news/international-standards-and-risk-assessments>

## **Further information**

If you would like further detail about the information provided here, please email Robert Latta from the Parliamentary and Deregulation Branch at [robert.latta@education.gov.au](mailto:robert.latta@education.gov.au).