

## Higher Education Standards Panel

Communiqué | 7 April 2026

### Consultation on Amendments to the Higher Education Standards Framework

At its meeting on 26 March 2026, the Higher Education Standards Panel (HESP) expressed its appreciation to all stakeholders for their strong engagement in the recent consultation on proposed amendments to the Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021. The consultation invited feedback on a range of targeted matters, including racism, governance principles, disability inclusion, risks associated with emerging technologies, and approaches to cyclical review, as set out in the published Consultation Paper.

During the consultation period, the HESP received 90 written submissions and online responses from a range of higher education providers, peak bodies and advocacy groups, as well as individuals. Submissions will be published where permission to publish has been provided. The HESP also convened six public webinars, attended by 219 participants, with broad representation. In addition, the HESP undertook targeted consultations with key stakeholder groups, including First Nations and disability representatives, governance experts, and the Antisemitism Education Taskforce.

The HESP considered the full body of consultation feedback in settling its proposed approach to amendments to the Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021. In doing so, the HESP applied its established drafting principles: amendments should be made only where necessary; standards should be concise and principle-based; deliver sector-wide benefit; align with existing legislation; be achievable and capable of being evidenced; remain fit for purpose over time while being expressed as clear and measurable obligations; support consistent monitoring by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) across diverse providers; and be constitutionally robust through objective, identifiable requirements.

The HESP is now drafting proposed amendments to the Standards. The HESP is also preparing its independent advice to the Minister for Education on amendments and transition arrangements, and related regulatory advice to TEQSA, consistent with the HESP's statutory role under the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011 (TEQSA Act)*. This is expected to be provided to the Minister in early April. Under the TEQSA Act, should the Minister wish to progress amendments, the Minister is then required to consult with TEQSA and Ministers for Higher Education.

The HESP acknowledges the sector's constructive engagement and remains committed to ensuring the Standards continue to support quality, safety and inclusion across Australian higher education.

Enquires: [standards@atec.gov.au](mailto:standards@atec.gov.au)