

English Australia MEDIA RELEASE



12 October 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Education Minister announces the revised standards for Australia's ELICOS sector

HOBART: The Hon Senator Simon Birmingham, Minister for Education and Training, today reiterated the importance of quality and standards in maintaining Australia's high reputation as a destination for international students.

Speaking at the Australian International Education Conference the Senator used the Ministerial Address to highlight Australia's successes in international education, and the important role of ELICOS within that space. He also stressed the need to maintain high standards across the sector. The Senator recognised English Australia's leading role in driving quality across the ELICOS sector, in particular acknowledging the role of English Australia's CEO Brett Blacker in the development of legislative and regulatory framework for the sector.

"Australia has always been at the forefront in regard to legislation to support quality in English language teaching and the ELICOS National Standards are the cornerstone of our sectors quality assurance framework, with the new standards upholding that tradition.

The changes announced today will ensure that all providers of courses to international students where the outcome is solely or predominantly English language will need to adhere to the standards, and that is a positive step in ensuring a level playing field for all providers", noted Brett.

English Australia CEO stated, "there has been some misinterpretation of the new standards, which implied a deficit in the English proficiency of students currently entering Australian Tertiary qualifications. I uphold that the Australian ELICOS sector is highly recognised globally for our course accreditation processes and the quality of educational delivery with a low prevalence of compliance issues, and the sector has been well served by the standards to date".

Students undertaking ELICOS should note that they will not be directly affected by the scope of the new standards or required to undertake any additional assessment.

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The new standard for providers related to direct entry arrangements into tertiary education courses, strengthens existing policies already met by most providers and should not require a significant change to current assessment processes. In consultation with TEQSA, English Australia is confident that a risk based approach will be adopted in the application of this standard.

We will actively work with members to ensure there is clarity in the application of the standards and utilise resources such as our Best Practice Guide to *Direct Entry Programs*, and we will continue to support providers in demonstrating adherence to the standards.

English Australia is proud to have played an invaluable part in representing our members in the pursuit of robust standards throughout the sector, and will continue to work closely with the Government in the implementation of the ELICOS National Standards.

About English Australia:

English Australia is the national peak body for the English language sector of international education in Australia.

English Australia represents over 120 member colleges throughout Australia that provide quality English language programs to students and professionals from around the world.

Over 80% of international students learning English in Australia choose to study with an English Australia member college.

As an association, English Australia has a focus on:

- representing member colleges whose core business is English language teaching;
- delivering best practice support and expertise to member colleges; and
- providing the English language sector with global visionary leadership.

Further information

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