



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## TEQSA AWARDS SELF-ACCREDITING AUTHORITY TO AVONDALE COLLEGE

Following a thorough assessment process, the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) has granted full self-accrediting authority to Avondale College of Higher Education, the first Australian non-university higher education provider to achieve this classification under TEQSA.

Full self-accrediting authority means that a provider can self-accredit all of its higher education courses of study, including coursework and research higher degrees, having been judged as being capable of:

- ▶ interpreting the requirements of the Threshold Standards and;
- ▶ ensuring these will be appropriately applied and met throughout the development and life of all of its courses of study.

Acting Chief Commissioner of TEQSA, Professor Nick Saunders said that this milestone was a good example of regulator and sector working together to ensure quality.

“Self-accrediting authority is not granted lightly. Avondale College went through a rigorous assessment process conducted over several months. TEQSA also had the benefit of having accredited multiple Avondale College courses over the past few years, giving it significant insight to its internal processes of quality assurance and academic governance. TEQSA looked for evidence of proven experience, a history of low risk and most importantly, strong academic governance and the ability to self-assure critical higher education processes,” Professor Saunders said.

Avondale College was also approved for re-registration by TEQSA for the maximum period of seven years. The College has been a registered higher education provider since 1974 by the New South Wales government and has been offering a range of masters degrees since the early 1990s, and doctoral studies from 2006.

Like all Australian higher education providers, Avondale College is responsible for ensuring that it remains compliant with the Threshold Standards at all times. TEQSA will continue to monitor this during Avondale College’s registration period.

“This is an important step in TEQSA’s work to promote a culture of effective self-assurance by Australian higher education providers,” said Professor Saunders.

Avondale College’s entry on the National Register of Higher Education Providers will be updated in early 2015.

*TEQSA is Australia’s independent national higher education quality assurance and regulation Agency.*

*TEQSA aims to ensure students receive a high quality education at any Australian higher education provider.*