THE OBSERVATORY
on Borderless Higher Education

Mission Possible?

The International Quest to Define and Improve Student Success

A global forum on student well-being and outcomes in higher education

Australian Government

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

Strength to Strength

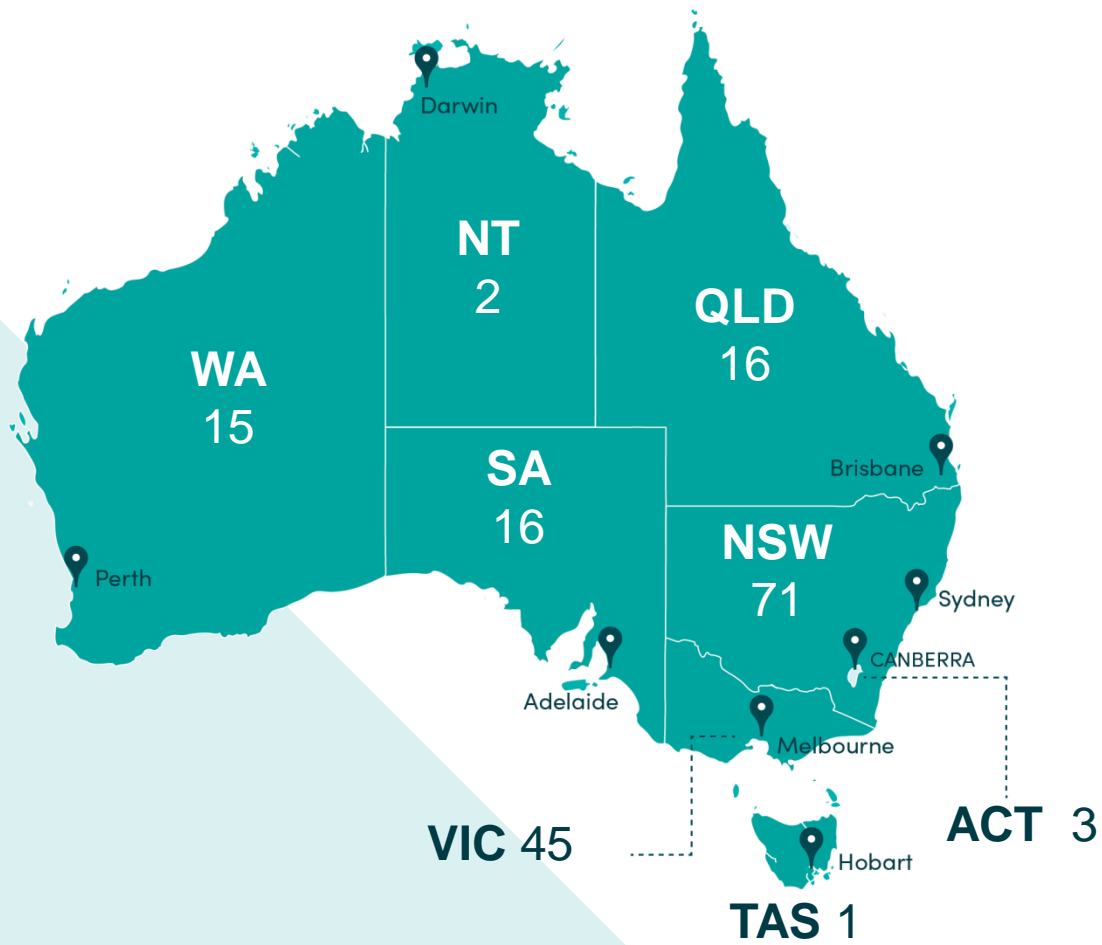*Student success in Australian Higher Education*

Dubai, November 2018

TEQSA

Who we are

- TEQSA is an independent statutory Commonwealth agency
- Established by the *TEQSA Act 2011*
- Our objectives are to:
  - Protect and enhance Australia's reputation for:
    - » Quality higher education
    - » International competitiveness
    - » Excellence, diversity and innovation
  - Ensure **equivalency of student outcomes** regardless of whether studying in Australia or overseas

Types of providers in Australia

Universities: Public, Private and Overseas

43

Higher Education Providers

127

Approx 50% of higher education providers also offer vocational education and training

(dual sector providers)

*12 Higher Education Providers have been granted self accrediting authority (full or partial)

Map labels:
Darwin
NT 2
WA 15
QLD 16
SA 16
NSW 71
Brisbane
Perth
Sydney
CANBERRA
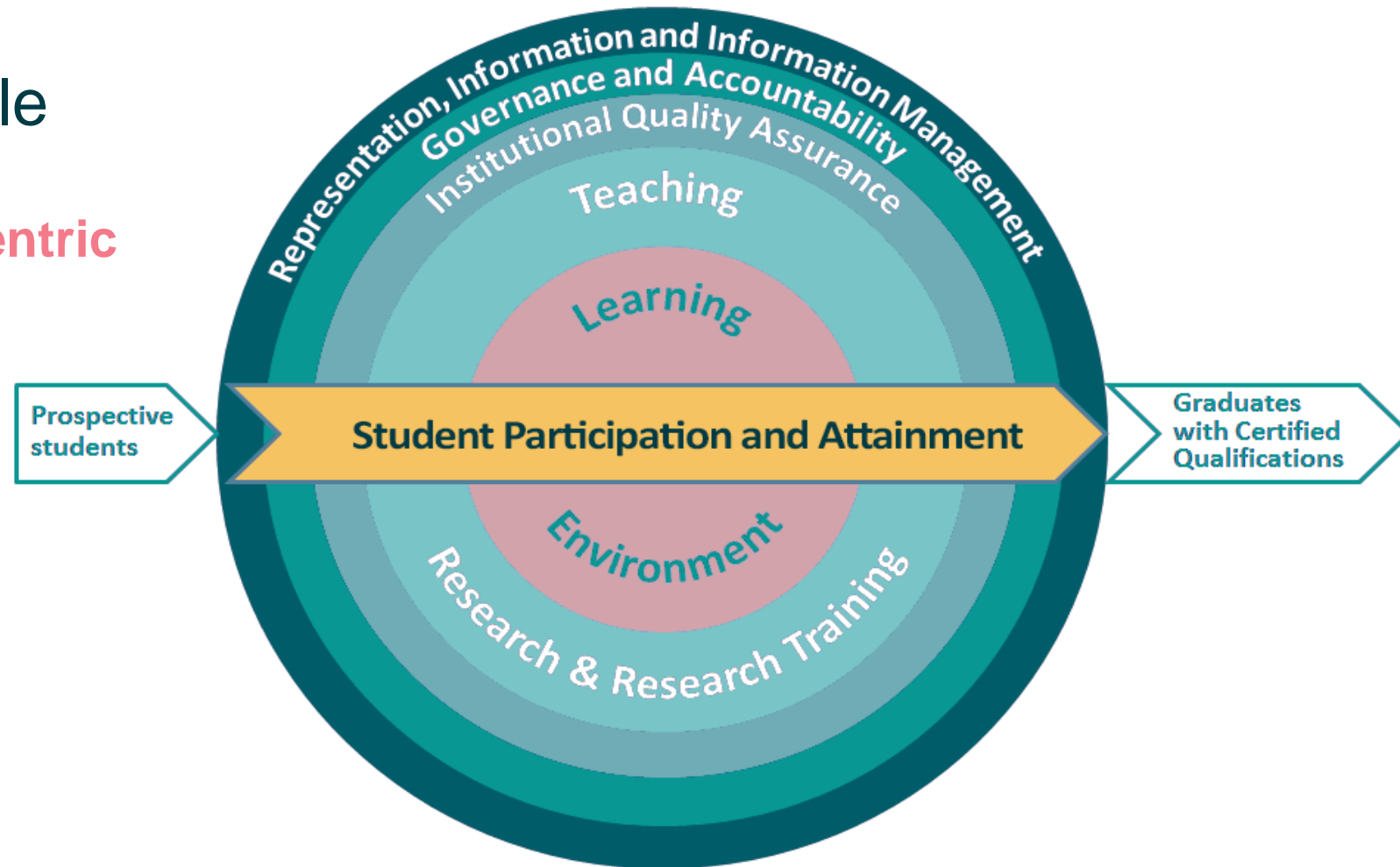Adelaide
Melbourne
VIC 45
ACT 3
TAS 1
Hobart

The Higher Education Standards and Risk Profile

Seven domains and **student centric**

TEQSA Risk Framework
two key overall indicators:

- **Risk to Students**
- **Risk to Financial position**

Risk assessment of every provider
undertaken annually

The Higher Education Standards Framework – Student wellbeing and safety

Domain 2 Learning Environment, Section 2.3 Wellbeing and safety

Standards broadly state that all higher education providers must **promote and foster a safe learning environment** for all students.

Higher education providers must also offer timely, accurate advice on access to personal support services, including access to emergency and health services, counselling, legal advice, advocacy, and accommodation and welfare services.

Standards aim to protect all aspects of student wellbeing and safety

2018-2019 all registration assessments have Section 2.3 Wellbeing and Safety in the core of assessment

Students and Regulation

TEQSA led activity

- **Wellbeing and Safety:** Guidance produced with input from sector and advocacy groups

- **Admissions Transparency:** clearer information for students prior to admission

- **Academic Integrity:** how are students being supported and educated with regards to cheating – further work and education engagement

- Agency **complaint processes** continue to be developed and can feed into Compliance Assessments

Considering how to involve students more directly in the assessment of providers.

Higher Education sector wide focus on student success

- **Improving retention, completion and success in higher education**, Higher Education Standards Panel review:
  - Focus on development of provider retention/student success strategies
  - Strengthening focus on data
  - Rethinking **career advice and planning**

- Myriad of projects and initiatives driven at provider level:
  - **Student Success Strategies** and student achievement
  - **First year transition** programs
  - **Student voice** in academic governance and decision making

- Strong peak and student groups focus on:
  - Student safety
  - Student **mental health**
  - Student finances

Sector wide focus on success

Emerging challenges for 2019 and beyond

Employability

- Are degrees the best way to skill a workforce of the future?
- Productivity Commission Review

Microcredentials

- Building greater flexibility into the system
- Where and how do micro credentials feed into degrees or other?
- Review of the Australian Qualifications Framework

A joined up Tertiary sector

- How do we make it easy for students to access the best of both vocational and higher education sectors?

TEQSA's Student Expert Advisory Group

Established to begin to provide us with advice on approaches to regulation and quality assurance from a student's perspective

- Activity has evolved since 2017 TEQSA Conference
- Student Engagement Strategy
- What are the issues students face?
- How can a student perspective help us better assure the quality of higher education?