

## FACT SHEET

### *Tasmanian Qualifications Authority (Amendment) Bill 2015*

This legislation gives effect to the Government's decision to establish a new model for the development and management of senior secondary qualification processes in Tasmania.

The Bill covers two areas – curriculum development for senior secondary courses and the establishment of the office of Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification (TASC). TASC will replace the Tasmanian Qualifications Authority.

In regard to curriculum development, the Minister will establish priorities for the development of the curriculum for senior secondary education on the advice of the Secretary responsible for the Act (the Department of Education). In developing that advice the Secretary is required to consult and work collaboratively with any organisations that represent all, or any group of, registered schools. The Secretary is also required to consider the needs of the Tasmanian workforce and the needs of providers of vocational education and training and of higher education.

The TQA will be replaced by TASC. TASC will be constituted by a statutory officer known as the Executive Officer. TASC will have the same functions as the TQA currently has, including managing senior secondary examination processes, accrediting senior secondary courses and public reporting on years 11 and 12 student achievement. TASC will be independent and will report to the Minister for Education and Training.

TASC will be required to develop a senior secondary accreditation framework that will be approved by the Minister. In developing the framework, the Executive Officer will be required to consult with a framework advisory council. The council's role is to advise and assist TASC and the Minister in relation to the development, review and implementation of the senior secondary accreditation framework. There will be a core membership of the council of the three education sectors, TasTAFE and the University of Tasmania. Other appointments can be made where a strong rationale exists. The Department of Education will continue to provide corporate support to TASC in the same way as it currently does for the TQA. The department will also provide additional support to assist TASC with its data management responsibilities.

The majority of amendments are to give effect to the replacement of the TQA by TASC and substitute the word 'authority' with 'office'. There are a number of consequential amendments to other legislation in similar vein.

A number of transitional provisions have been included to support transition to the new model.