What’s in a Name?
Possible landing points for the Review of the Higher Education Provider Category Standards

Emeritus Professor Peter Coald rake AO

TDA Conference 4 September 2019
## Current Provider Category landscape

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Provider Categories</th>
<th>SAA (a)</th>
<th>Non-SAA</th>
<th>Total Providers</th>
<th>Student Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher Education Provider</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>132,951 (c)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian University</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>1,206,415 (b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian University College</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian University of Specialisation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,279 (b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas University</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>183 (b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas University of Specialisation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>55</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>1,340,828</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Notes:
- **a.** SAA = Self-Accrediting Authority (a provider can self-accredit some or all of its courses).
- **b.** Student numbers equates to a headcount of all students based on the latest available full year data. (Source: Australian Government Department of Education. (2017). *Higher Education Statistics*).
Issues raised through consultations

• Potential simplification of the current provider categories.
• Underutilisation of several of the current university categories and the unobtainability of the ‘Australian University College’ category.
• Negative associations of non-university nomenclature.
• Australia’s conceptualisation of a university.
• Bolstering research quality and scale, industry and community engagement, and civic leadership.
• The undifferentiated nature of the current ‘Higher Education Provider’ category.
• The process for higher education providers (beyond universities) to gain limited or unlimited self-accrediting authority.
• The relevance of the current categories to meet current and emerging needs.
Possible landing points

• There should be a simplification of the current provider categories.

• Our universities are currently over-categorised, while all other higher education providers are grouped in a single undifferentiated category.

• A new category should be created to serve aspiration, destination or progression purposes for the highest performing higher education institutions which are not universities. A measure of self-accrediting authority status should be considered for these providers.

• The undertaking of research is, and should remain, a defining feature of what it means to be a university in Australia.

• Quality and scale of research should be included in the PCS, with quality requirements augmented over time.
The current higher education provider category

- Not for profit providers
- For-profit stand-alone proprietary companies
- TAFE providers
- Faith-based colleges
- Specialist providers
- Online providers
- Pathway and foundational providers
Categorisation criteria

• Access to student funding
• By student size
• By range of programs
• By self-accrediting status
• By provider type: TAFE, Polytechnics