Submission to the Foundation Program Standards consultation

Institution

[Redacted]

Name

[Redacted

Position

[Redacted]

Sector of delivery (e.g. Higher Education, VET)

[Redacted]

1. What are your overall comments on the paper, including the possible amendments?

The opportunity to package Standard Foundation Programs with ELICOS programs is a strategy that should be used for students who do not meet the IELTS entry requirement for entry to their preferred course of study.

2. Is the minimum age requirement of 17 years of age to commence a Foundation Program, or 16 years of age with prior approval by TEQSA, appropriate?

A minimum age of 17 years is appropriate.

We would not want to raise the minimum age to 18, as the minimum academic requirement to enter the Foundation Program is Year 11. We tend to get a large cohort of students entering the Foundation Program who start when they are 17 years old.

3. Is there a need for 'extended' Foundation Programs? If so, how should the Standards apply to them?

Yes, there is a need for 'extended' Foundation Programs. The extended Foundation Program may have a lower academic entry requirement to the standard Foundation Program.

Extended Foundation Programs should require formal measures to be in place to ensure assessment of outcomes for the academic English program are comparable to other criteria used for admission.

Packaging Standard Foundation Programs with ELICOS programs should be used as a preference for applicants with lower levels of English.

4. Should the Foundation Program Standards also regulate courses under 26 weeks? If not, should providers be able to register these courses on CRICOS as 'non-award'?

Foundation Standards should not be used to regulate courses under 26 weeks. Providers should be able to register these courses as 'non-award'.

5. Should online learning be a part of Foundation Programs?
i. If so, how should this be specified?
ii. What limits should be in place (such as course percentage or hours per week)?
iii. How would consideration be given to the younger cohorts in Foundation Programs?

Providers should be permitted to offer Foundation Studies online. Particular care needs to be given to ensure appropriate support and scaffolding is provided for online delivery. Reflecting on the last

18 months, it is possible to successfully deliver Foundation studies programs fully online (i.e. 100% of the course).

6. **Is the distinction between streamlined and general programs required?**
   Should there be specified key learning areas, or more flexibility to deliver units designed to meet student needs/pathway course needs, with only the English language component as compulsory?

Foundation Programs should be general programs with English as a compulsory component. Australian HSC students entering direct entry into bachelor programs may not have completed streamline units in their HSC to enter their degree. For example, a student who has an ATAR of 70 entering a Bachelor of Nursing besides English they could have completed Business, History or language units in their HSC and may not have studied Biology, Science, etc. which would be more related to Nursing. These students met the requirements into the course based on their ATAR not on the individual units they completed in their HSC. A Foundation Program should not need to be streamed if it is equivalent to Year 12. Streamed programs don't give students flexibility.