



University of  
South Australia

10 July 2013

Higher Education Standards Executive  
GPO Box 1672  
Melbourne, VIC 3001

**RE: Call for Comment from the Higher Education Standards Panel**

To Whom It May Concern,

The University of South Australia (UniSA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed revisions to the current Higher Education Standards '*Draft Standards for Research, Research Training and Learning Outcomes (Research Training)*'.

Please find enclosed the University of South Australia's responses to the key questions posed in the Call for Comment Number 2, received from the Higher Education Standards Executive on the 28 May 2013.

Please contact the office of UniSA's Deputy Vice Chancellor and Vice President: Research and Innovation if you have any questions or would like further clarification of the University's position.

Yours sincerely,

**Office of the Deputy Vice  
Chancellor: Research and  
Innovation**

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**Professor Richard Head  
Deputy Vice Chancellor and Vice President: Research and Innovation  
University of South Australia**

### ***Higher Education Standards Panel – Call for Comment***

The University of South Australia appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the draft Research Standards created by the Higher Education Standards Panel (HESP). The University of South Australia understand the compliance of the research Standards will be monitored by TEQSA, and broadly supports the proposed Standards with some minor suggestions regarding definitions and wording as indicated in the below responses. UniSA appreciates that the manner by which the consultation process has been conducted by the HESP, in that it has been a well-considered and broadly consulted process.

This submission represents the views of the University of South Australia, and has been made on behalf of Professor Richard Head, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Vice President: Research and Innovation.

### ***Draft Standards for Research***

**Q1. Do you broadly support the proposed standards for Research? If not, why?**

The University of South Australia broadly supports the proposed Standards for Research, and believe them to be appropriate.

**Q2. Do you wish to make any suggestions in relation to the specific content of the standards?**

The University of South Australia has no further suggestions with regard to the Draft Standards for Research.

### ***Draft Standards for Research Training***

**Q3. Do you broadly support the proposed standards for Research Training? If not, why?**

The University of South Australia broadly supports the proposed Standards for Research Training, and believe them to be appropriate.

**Q4. Do you wish to make any suggestions in relation to the specific content of the standards?**

Standard 3 states “...there is at least one associate supervisor with relevant research expertise...”. The University of South Australia recommends that rather than referring to an ‘Associate’ Supervisor, this Standard should be amended to read ‘Additional Supervisor’ to allow for the diversity of nomenclature for this role at various universities.

### ***Draft Standards for Learning Outcomes (Research Training)***

**Q5. Do you broadly support the proposed standards for Learning Outcomes (Research Training)? If not, why?**

The University of South Australia broadly support the proposed Standards for Learning Outcomes (Research Training), and believe them to be appropriate.

**Q6. Do you wish to make any suggestions in relation to the specific content of the standards**

The University of South Australia is of the opinion that Learning Outcomes 3a., 3b., 3c., and 3d. can be evidenced by the outcomes of the research program, i.e. via the thesis examination process.

Learning Outcome 3e., however, could potentially be assessed in a number of ways. The University of South Australia requests that the Higher Education Standards Panel recognise that university policies, research environment and frameworks for research training need to be flexible enough to accommodate the motivations, prior learning and prior experiences of individual research students.

Learning Outcome 4b. requires at least one independent expert to examine the thesis/body of work for a Masters degree. The University of South Australia recommends that, for a Masters by Research degree, this requirement is too low and should state "...at least two independent experts who are...".

***Call for Comments***

**Q7. Do you wish to make any Overall or general Comments about the form, style, scope or any other aspect of the proposed set of research-related standards?**

The Panel has been careful to ensure minimum standards have been set around critical aspects of research and training, while ensuring the regulatory burden is kept to a minimum.

A Glossary would be useful to interpret terms in the Standards.