

# Material Change Procedure

## Section 1 - Preamble

(1) Charles Darwin University ('the University', 'CDU') is committed to complying with all legislative and regulatory requirements to ensure the delivery of high-quality education and to identify and mitigate potential and emerging risks to its operations.

(2) This procedure ensures compliance with:

- a. Sections 29(1)(a - b) and 44G(1)(a - d) of the [Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011](#).
- b. Part 2 - Registration (25) of the [National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011](#).
- c. [Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000](#).

## Section 2 - Purpose

(3) The University is responsible for the timely disclosure and notification of material changes to regulators about incidents or events that may impact on the University's ability to comply with relevant regulatory bodies or that require changes to the National Register or ASQAnet.

## Section 3 - Scope

(4) This procedure applies to all university staff and any event or incident which impacts the University's ability to comply with the relevant regulatory Acts relating to Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training.

(5) This procedure outlines the process of notifying material changes to regulators on matters including, but not limited to:

- a. changes to legal status or ownership;
- b. changes to key personnel who participate in decision-making or exercise control and influence over the management or influence of persons in VET and higher education, including but not limited to the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, and Provost;
- c. adverse findings;
- d. events which impact on financial viability;
- e. third party arrangements; and
- f. events or incidents which impact on student or staff experience, safety and learning, including:
  - i. breaches of academic integrity involving more than one student;
  - ii. new delivery sites;
  - iii. changes to professional accreditation; and
  - iv. critical incidents.

## Section 4 - Procedure

(6) The University will appoint a primary contact for each regulator.

- a. The Vice-President Governance and University Secretary is the primary [TEQSA](#) contact;
- b. The Vice-Chancellor is the primary [ASQA](#) contact.

(7) The primary contact will consider and determine events (or combination of events) that will affect the University's ability to comply with the relevant regulations.

### Identification and determination of a material change

(8) All material changes which have occurred or are likely to occur must be raised to the relevant primary contact for consideration.

(9) On advice from the relevant member of the Senior Executive Team or Academic Quality and Integrity team, the primary contact will consider the:

- a. nature of the change;
- b. impacts of the change; and
- c. risks and potential consequences.

(10) The primary contact will determine whether the event will affect the University's ability to comply with the relevant regulations and decide whether it is reportable.

- a. Reportable events: Where a material change is deemed to be of such a nature to significantly affect operations and/or the University's administrative structure, the University is required to notify the relevant regulatory bodies as a condition of continued registration.
- b. Non reportable events: Where a material change is not deemed to require reporting to the relevant regulatory bodies, internal reporting and registering should occur to ensure that the appropriate risk assessments have taken place and to ensure that reports are available for the relevant regulatory bodies if required.

(11) Approvals by regulators are required for some changes, including:

- a. changes to arrangements with other providers, including third party delivery;
- b. changes to the maximum number of students that can be enrolled;
- c. changes to the duration of a [CRICOS](#) registered course;
- d. new delivery sites where a [CRICOS](#) registered course will be delivered; and
- e. any offshore delivery, including the commencement, cessation, relocation, or third party delivery of an Australian course

(12) Changes outlined in Clause 11 (see above) must not be implemented prior to approval from [ASQA](#) or [TEQSA](#).

### Notification and reporting

(13) When an event is considered to be reportable, the Academic Quality and Integrity team will document the Material Change Notification.

(14) Material Change Notifications will include:

- a. the details of the risks and impacts of the changes (if relevant);

- b. the measures to be undertaken to ensure minimum disruption or impact on students and staff; and
- c. mitigations to ensure future compliance.

(15) Notifications will be approved by the primary contact and submitted within the timeframes in Clause 20.

(16) Notifications must be submitted by staff who are registered contacts on the [TEQSA](#) portal or ASQAnet.

(17) A regulator may investigate the material change notification based on the perceived risk and will determine if any further action and/or if a request for information is required. When a request for information is received, the relevant Responsible Executive Officer and the Academic Quality and Integrity team will be notified.

### Material change register

(18) The Material Change Register will record details of reportable and non-reportable events.

(19) The register will include the details about the event or incident, the relevant Responsible Executive Officer, and the status of the notification, including any requests for information from the regulator.

(20) The register will be maintained by Teaching and Learning Connect.

(21) A summary of material changes will be reported to the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee for monitoring and assessment of risks.

### Timeframes

(22) Material change notifications must be reported within the relevant regulators prescribed timeframes, as follows:

TEQSA	ASQA	National Code and ESOS
<p>No later than 14 days after the day that the provider would reasonably be expected to have become aware of the event.</p> <p>Offshore delivery arrangements must be notified to TEQSA as soon as the provider becomes aware, or could reasonably be expected to have become aware, and no later than 90 days before the event or change occurs or is likely to occur.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Within 10 business days after the occurrence of the event that significantly affects compliance with the <a href="#">National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011</a>. Further operational details are provided in the <a href="#">National Vocational Education and Training Regulator (Compliance Standards for NVR Registered Training Organisations and Fit and Proper Person Requirements) Instrument 2025</a></li> <li>2. A prospective change in governing person(s) as soon as practicable, otherwise within 10 business days of the change taking place.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At least 30 days prior to changes to the registration of a course taking effect.</li> <li>2. Within 10 business days after any event occurs, which significantly affects the University’s ability to comply with the act.</li> <li>3. Prospective changes to ownership as soon as practicable before the changes to effect.</li> </ol>

## Section 5 - Non-compliance

(23) Non-compliance with governance documents is considered a breach of the [Code of Conduct - Employees](#) or the [Code of Conduct - Students](#), as applicable, and is treated seriously by the University. Reports of concerns about non-compliance will be managed in accordance with the applicable disciplinary procedures outlined in the [Charles Darwin University and Union Enterprise Agreement 2025](#) and the [Code of Conduct - Students](#).

(24) Complaints may be raised in accordance with the [Complaints and Grievance Policy and Procedure - Employees](#) and [Complaints Policy - Students](#).

(25) All staff members have an individual responsibility to raise any suspicion, allegation or report of fraud or corruption in accordance with the [Fraud and Corruption Control Policy](#) and [Whistleblower Reporting \(Improper Conduct\) Procedure](#).

## Status and Details

<b>Status</b>	Current
<b>Effective Date</b>	10th June 2026
<b>Review Date</b>	10th June 2029
<b>Approval Authority</b>	Vice-Chancellor
<b>Approval Date</b>	21st May 2026
<b>Expiry Date</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Executive</b>	Lisa Papatraianou Deputy Provost
<b>Implementation Officer</b>	Amanda Martin Associate Director Academic Quality and Integrity
<b>Enquiries Contact</b>	Amanda Martin Associate Director Academic Quality and Integrity <hr/> Teaching and Learning Connect

## Glossary Terms and Definitions

**"Material Change"** - An event, or a likely event, that would significantly affect the University's ability to comply with its applicable regulatory standards or frameworks. Section 29(1), Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011. Part 2 - Registration (25), Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011

**"University"** - Charles Darwin University, a body corporate established under section 4 of the Charles Darwin University Act 2003. The University is comprised of the various faculties, CDU TAFE, organisational units, and formal committees, including the governing University Council and Academic Board.

**"Governance document"** - means policy or procedure published in the Governance Document Library. Policies and procedures are collectively called 'governance documents' and are often referred to as 'policy' or 'University policy'.

**"Offshore delivery"** - The delivery of an Australian course of study at premises outside Australia. Refer to section 44A(1)(a) of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011 for the exact legislative definition.