




Australian Government  
Department of Education

# Educating Online in Australia

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# Agenda


- Overview of online learning context in Australia
  - Key drivers for change
  - Australian Government support for e-learning
  - Quality assurance arrangements
  - Current challenges and topics for debate
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# The Australian Higher Education Sector

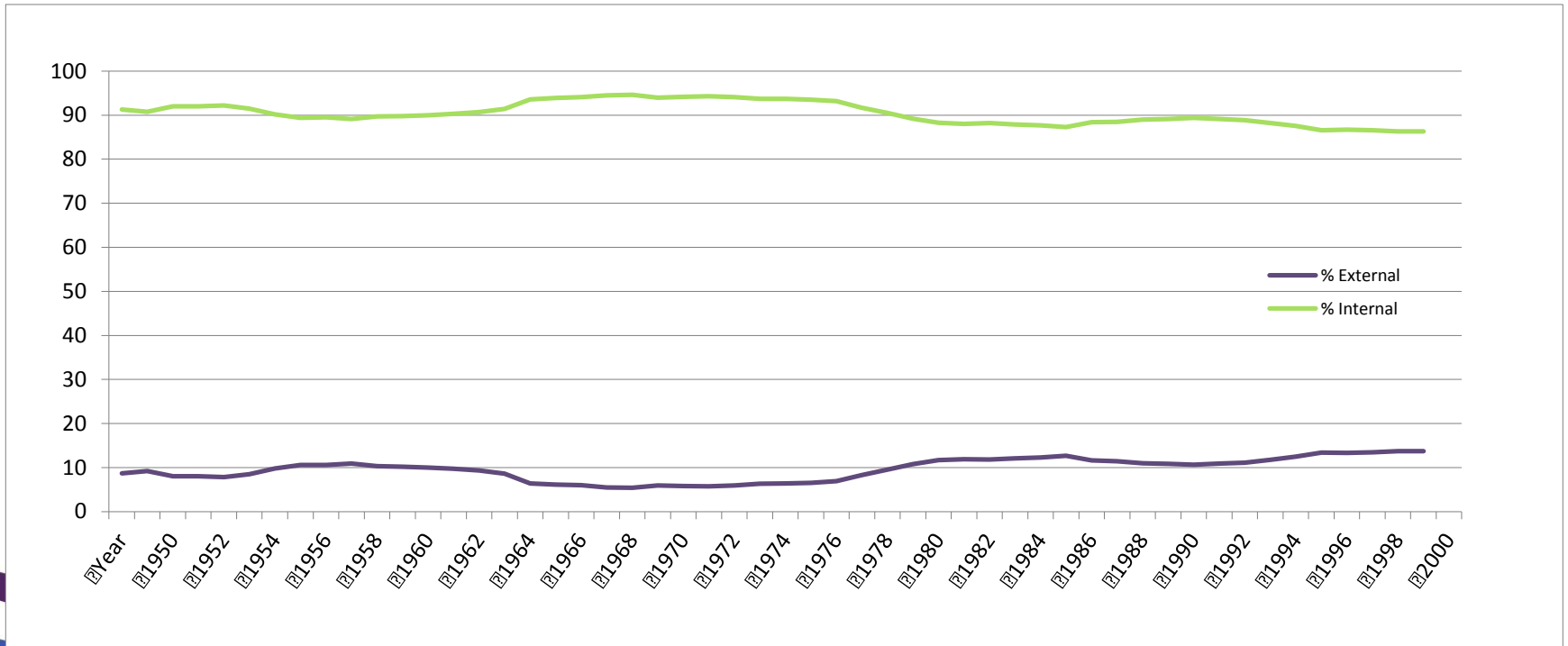
- 41 Australian universities
  - 37 public universities
  - 3 private universities
  - 1 specialised university
- 2 campuses of overseas universities
- Around 130 accredited private providers
- 4 self-accrediting institutions



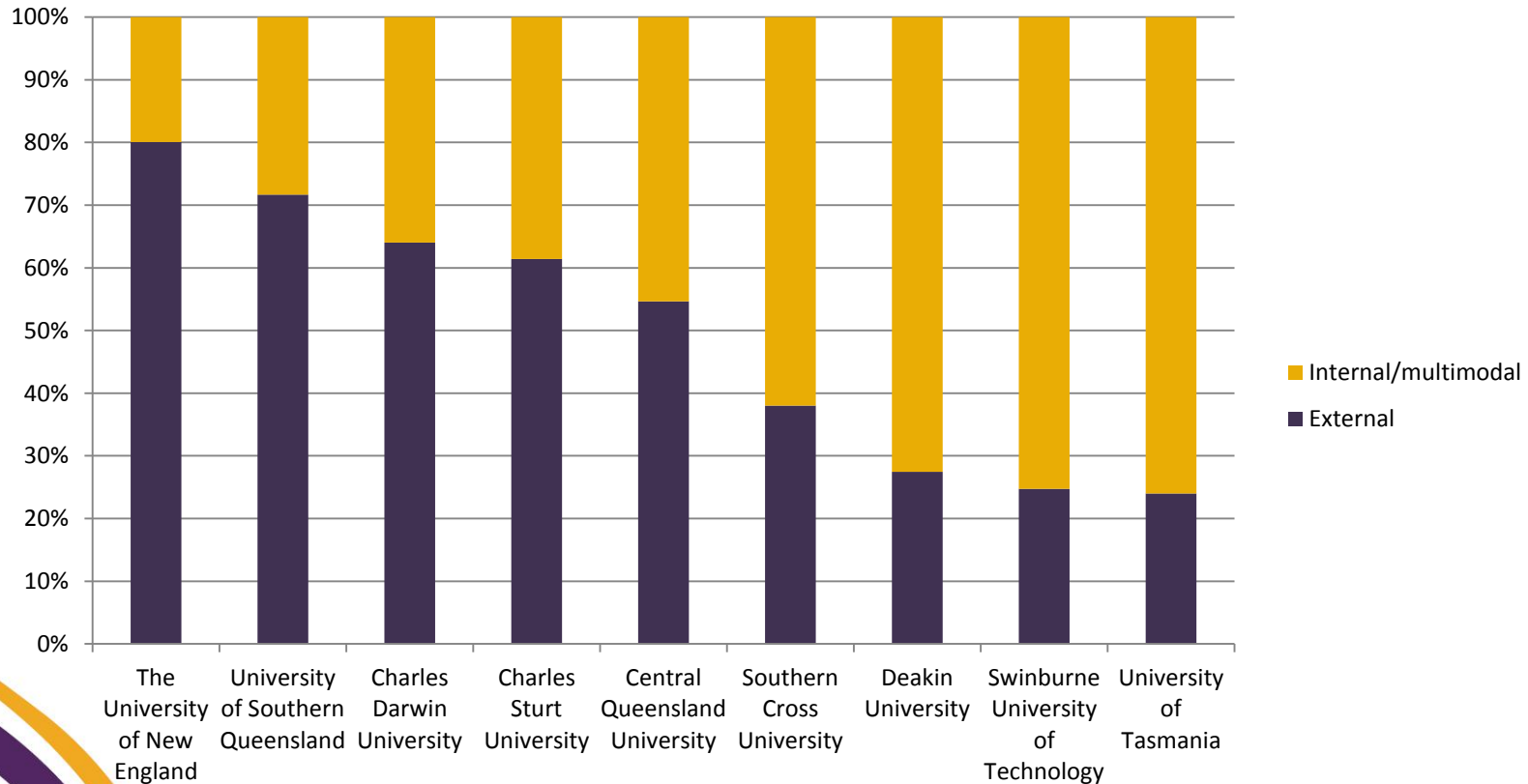
# Overview

- 1.2 million students in universities
    - 173,000 (14%) study externally/online
  - Changing technologies over time
    - Hard copy notes, audio cassettes, TV broadcast, video tape, CD, internet
  - Traditional distance education providers have embraced fully online learning
  - Online is used for better learning, not just better access
  - Blended learning mainstream across the HE sector
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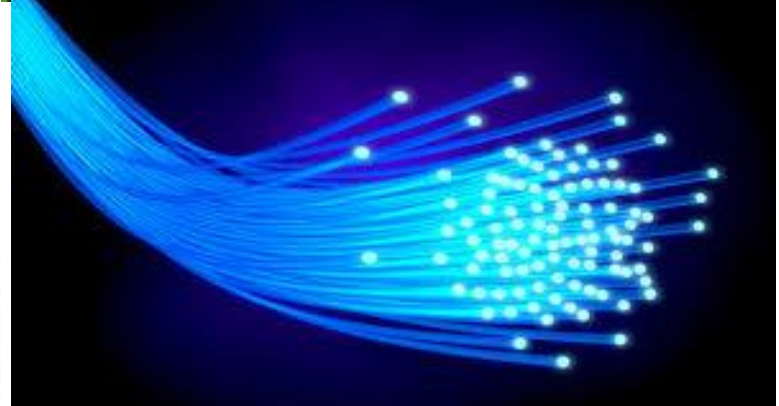
# External and internal enrolments 1950-2000




# Proportion of internal and external students in selected universities



# Drivers for online learning



# Australian Schooling

- Information and communication technology in the Australian National Curriculum
    - ICT capability that applies across all learning areas and within the Technologies curriculum through Digital technologies.
  - Specific programs, eg: Victorian Government iPads for Learning Trial
    - **Quality teaching** is the factor which enables the iPad to be used effectively to improve student motivation, engagement and learning outcomes
    - 90% of students said that **learning was more fun** when using the iPads
    - 85% of primary teachers and 90% of special school teachers thought that students were more motivated and engaged in learning, vs. 32% in secondary schools.
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# BRIDGE School Partnerships

- Over 200 partnerships between schools in Australia and Indonesia, China, South Korea, Thailand, Malaysia and India




# Australian Government initiatives


- Office of Learning and Teaching
  - Awards to recognise outstanding contributions to student learning
  - Grants for technology enabled learning projects
    - Students, universities and open education
    - student-created digital media and ePortfolios
    - web-based stimulation and feedback techniques
    - 3D reconstruction and animation, and virtual workshops



# Quality Assurance

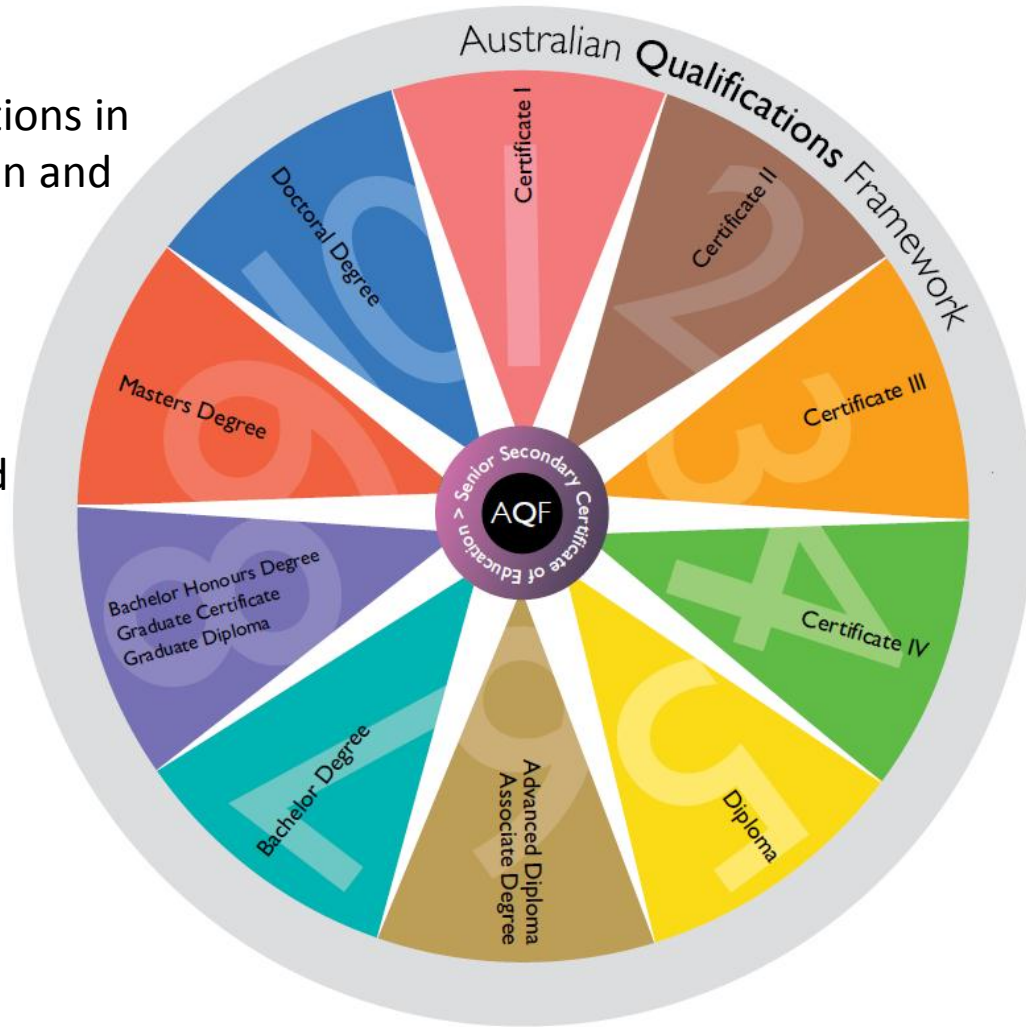
- Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) is the Government Agency responsible for higher education quality assurance
  - All higher education providers must be registered by TEQSA
  - In order to be registered, providers must meet the *Higher Education Threshold Standards* established in legislation.
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# Higher Education Threshold Standards

- Course design must be appropriate, and learning outcomes for students must be achieved, **irrespective of the location or chosen method of delivery.**
  - Institutions must meet the learning needs of **all** students, including ongoing academic and learning support.
  - Higher education awards must comply with the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)
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National policy for regulated qualifications in Australian education and training.


Incorporates the qualifications from each education and training sector into a single comprehensive national framework.



Based on the **learning outcomes** expected from graduates for each qualification type.

The **sector or mode of delivery is not a factor** in determining the AQF level of a particular qualification.

# International Students in Australia

- *Education Services for Overseas Students Act (ESOS)*
  - Student visa holders are not permitted to study more than 25% of their course by online learning
  - International students cannot be enrolled exclusively online in any compulsory study period.
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# Current topics for debate/ key challenges

- Resourcing
  - Technology, new learning spaces, staff development
- Students who want it all
- Assessment design
- Role of MOOCs for universities





**Thankyou**

