



Australian Government

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

# Curtin Academy Illumination 2021 Keynote #1

Reflections, opportunities and challenges  
for the tertiary sector and TEQSA

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TEQSA



Australian Government

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

TEQSA

## Acknowledgement of Country

TEQSA acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to their Cultures, Country and Elders past, present and emerging.



# Reflections of a then departing VC on the Australian higher education sector

- Governance, strategy and management
  - Institutional strategy
  - Chancellor-VC relationship and broader issues of culture
  - audit and risk
  - budget/financial management
  - campus strategy

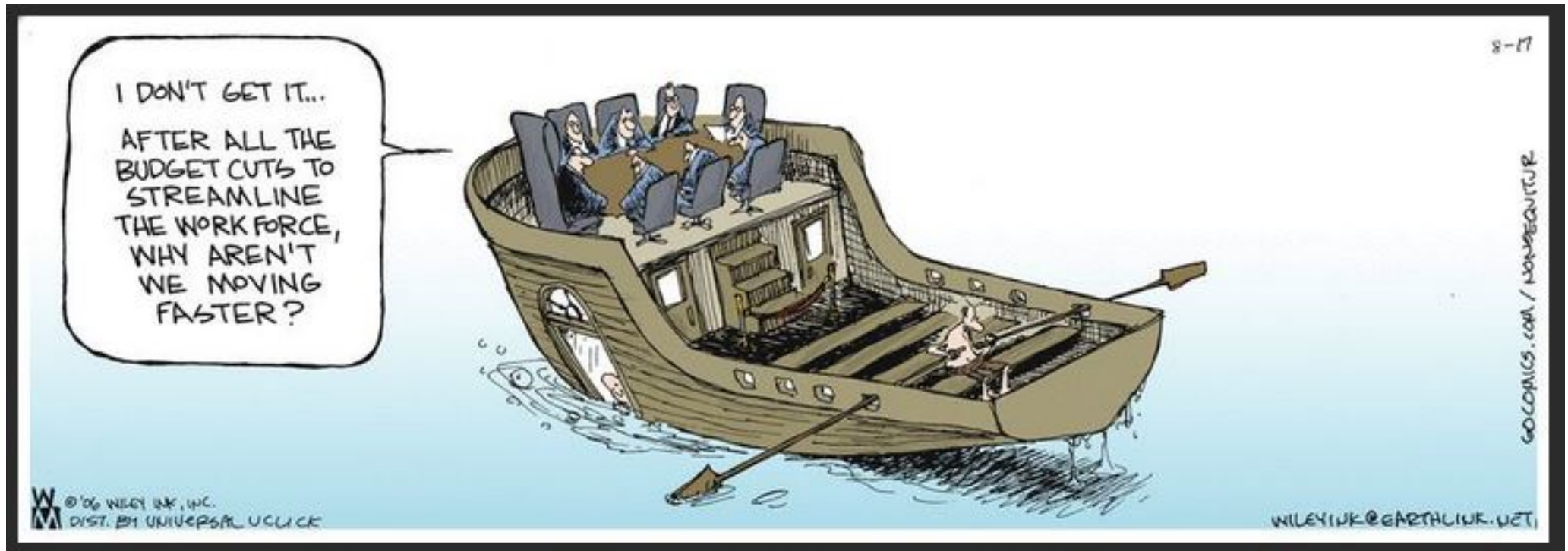


# Reflections of a then departing VC (*continued*)

- The changing character of universities and progress of reform agendas
  - the demand-driven system
  - widening opportunity and participation
  - international student income dependency
  - the role of the professional staff in running our universities
  - future sector and jobs growth



## Reflections of a then departing VC (continued)



**Image source:** Non Sequitur by Wiley Miller, <https://www.gocomics.com/nonsequitur/>

# What's in a Name? Outcomes of the Provider Category Standards review



- Consolidation of categories
- University Colleges
- Lifting the research bar

# COVID as disruptor and accelerator; and higher education settings going forward

- Financial pressures, including implications for research and admission standards
- Accelerating the shifts toward online/blended learning and broader implications for the student experience and campus planning
- International student income dependence, potential confounding of risk management profiles
- Business models challenged. It's more than 'never wasting a crisis'



# Transitioning to a regulatory role

- Understanding the knitting: TEQSA's two jobs - to guard the quality and integrity of the Australian higher education sector, and to protect the interests of students
- TEQSA: protector or protectionist?
- TEQSA: the intersections of quality and integrity
- TEQSA: as much about the interests of students as about those of the providers
- TEQSA: balancing the day-to day essential obligations while having a perspective on the bigger picture of change

