

The targeted review of qualifications

March 2011

Tertiary Qualifications System Improvements Levels 1-6

**ECONOMIC / FISCAL
CONTEXT**

**FUTURE SOCIETY /
INDUSTRY NEEDS**

THE KEY ISSUES

System not understood by learners / employers

Too many qualifications and duplication:

3,455 certificates in 305 Fields
(25% in only 10 Fields)

Unclear which qualifications were available

Pathways to further education and employment not clear to students / parents / employers

Cost and time to market of qualifications

Different quality assurance requirements for National and provider qualifications

PACKAGE OF CHANGES

1. Establish the NZQF
2. Use existing quality assured qualifications, enable inclusion of local components
3. Mandatory reviews of qualifications
4. Strengthen outcome statements
5. Pre-development assessment
6. Strengthen industry involvement in qualification development
7. Provide clear information on the availability of a qualification

IMPACTS

- ✓ NZQF internationally relevant
- ✓ 45% overall reduction in number of qualifications on NZQF by end 2012
- ✓ Skills, knowledge and competencies of graduates from each qualification are clear
- ✓ Clear pathways to future qualifications for learners / employers
- ✓ Qualifications relevant and fit-for-purpose
- ✓ Significant \$ savings over time
- ✓ Consistent approach to quality assurance



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK
TE TAURA HERE TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

The New Zealand Qualifications framework is designed to optimise recognition of educational achievement and its contribution to New Zealand's economic, social and cultural success.

Specifically the NZQF will:

- convey the skills, knowledge and attributes a graduate has gained through completing a qualification
- require the development of integrated and coherent qualifications
- enable and support the provision of high-quality education pathways
- enhance confidence in the quality and international comparability of New Zealand qualifications
- contribute to the strengthening of Māori as a people by enhancing and advancing mātauranga Māori
- represent value for money, be sustainable and robust

Principles underpinning qualification design

- Strategic and needs based - usefulness, relevance and value
 - Learners, employers, industry and communities
 - Acknowledges cultural and social aspirations where appropriate
 - Needs can be demonstrated
- Practical focus on outcomes
 - Transparent
 - Increases portability
 - Enables comparisons
- Flexibility
 - Achievement in ways most suited to learner and stakeholder needs. Separates qualification from programme of study and training.
- Mutual trust and accountability
 - Communication and collaboration

~ Mechanisms to reduce duplication of qualifications

- 2 stage process to list a qualification on the NZQF
 - pre-approval to develop qualification
 - qualification approval and listing
- mandatory review of qualifications
 - NZQA to develop the schedule and trigger reviews
 - review plan submitted within 3 months of trigger
 - report to NZQA with recommendations for changes to qualifications about 6 months of trigger
 - implement the approved changes to qualifications in agreed timeline

Capability for reviewing and developing qualifications

- assigned NZQA SRM to each review – liaison, advice
- workshops
 - clarify and set NZQA expectations
 - explain requirements
 - focus on strategic purpose and graduate profiles
- assistance with facilitating initial stages of reviews where required
- administrative support