



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA




New Zealand Qualifications Forum 2009

Targeted review of qualifications

4 December 2009

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Why the targeted review?

- Government is seeking to resolve issues of duplication and proliferation in the qualifications system.
- The Government wants a simplified qualification system for learners, industry and providers.
- International developments – eg European Framework.
- NZQA proposes to make strategic improvements to the system through **a package of changes**.

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Targeted review consultation findings

Change one: create New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF)


- 80% supportive (a further 4.5% 'somewhat support')

Change seven: show 'active', 'inactive', 'closed' status of qualifications on the NZQF

- 88% supportive (a further 1.5% 'somewhat support')

Broad theme: Classification systems and qualifications descriptors and levels need to be consistent across sector

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Targeted review consultation findings

Change three: fit-for-purpose qualification reviews

- 63% supportive (a further 7.5% 'somewhat support')

Change four: strengthen and standardise outcome statements


- 77% supportive (a further 4.5% 'somewhat support')

Change six: recognised industry involvement

- 65% supportive (a further 9% 'somewhat support')

Broad theme: 'We already do it'

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Targeted review consultation findings

Change two: use existing quality assured qualifications and change design rules of National and NZ qualifications to allow for local components


- 52% supportive (a further 20% 'somewhat support')

Change five: qualification pre-development assessment

- 48% supportive (a further 11% 'somewhat support')

Broadly, submitters agreed with the intent of each change, but need more information and detail on implementation


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Recurrent themes

- Concerns with how qualification developers will give effect to the changes
- Concerns raised about how some standard setting bodies and providers currently behave (i.e. anti-competitive)
- How current mechanisms for review will fit, i.e. self-assessment and external evaluation and review
- Concerns of added cost or compliance
- Capability and capacity of NZQA and other agencies to achieve the goals of the change package
- Sector wants more effective alignment between NZQA, TEC and the Ministry

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Other issues

- A number of submissions raised other matters:
 - Why only levels 1-6 qualifications on the NZQF, and not the universities?
 - The distinction between 'programme of study', 'course' and 'qualification' not sufficiently clear
 - Highlight a future opportunity to look at levels on the Register and the level descriptors

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Next steps

17 December NZQA Board meeting

- Recommendations


21 December 2009

- Paper with recommendations to Minister for Tertiary Education

First Quarter 2010

- Implement Plan

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Discussion

- What is a 'local component'?
- Should the local content be (30%) or principles-based?
- In a system where there is more flexibility, how do we improve national qualifications and the unit standards therein, including the development time?

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4 December 2009 New Zealand Qualifications Forum 10