

Aide-Memoire: Consultation on changes to NZQA's Rules

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education
From:	Dr Grant Klinkum, Chief Executive
Date:	15 August 2022
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Purpose

1. This aide memoire provides you with information on the New Zealand Qualification Authority's (NZQA) intention to consult on changes to the NZQA Rules.
2. We propose to proactively release this briefing as part of the next publication of documents.

Discussion

3. We have prepared a draft consultation document to propose changes to the NZQA Rules. Please see the attached appendix.
4. NZQA is revising its rules to reflect the changes set out in the Education and Training Amendment Act, which came into effect on 1 August 2022. These changes include:
 - replacing training schemes with micro-credentials
 - listing micro-credentials on an expanded New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework (NZQCF)
 - accrediting providers to deliver micro-credentials listed on the NZQCF
 - listing skill standards on the Directory of Assessment and Skill Standards
 - enabling standard-setting bodies to develop national curricula as pathways to New Zealand qualifications.
5. Alongside these changes, we are proposing other updates to ensure the NZQA Rules remain up-to-date and fit for purpose. These include:
 - regulating level 7 diplomas in the same way as level 1–6 qualifications
 - applying the *Programme Approval and Accreditation Rules* to work-based training
 - clarifying offshore programme delivery and offshore partnerships
 - allowing for programmes that include work placements or practical training to be offered online and offshore

- making minor and technical changes to clarify and simplify the rules and to reflect changes to the Act.

Micro-credentials

6. We will consult on new rules for the approval and accreditation of micro-credentials, to replace the current *Training Scheme Rules*. We will also consult on the requirements for listing and awarding micro-credentials in the *NZQCF Qualification and Micro-credential Listing and Operational Rules*.
7. We intend to review all current training schemes and micro-credentials against the new micro-credential approval and accreditation rules over a transition period of up to three years.

Skill standards and 'national curricula'

8. The proposed rule changes relating to skill standards and national curricula build on the extensive development work that has been carried out with Te Rāngai Ohu Mahi - Paerewa Ako me te Marautanga ā-motu—Skill Standards and 'National Curriculum' Sector Working Group.
9. The Working Group has proposed design principles for skill standards and agreed that the proposed components for skill standards are ready for targeted engagement and consultation.
10. The Working Group continues to explore the opportunities provided by national curricula. Feedback to date is that 'national curriculum' is easily confused with the New Zealand Curriculum and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa, so the Working Group is considering 'New Zealand programme' as an alternative name. 'New Zealand programme' reflects the function of a national curriculum in the vocational education landscape.

Stakeholder engagement

11. NZQA has engaged with provider peak bodies and Workforce Development Councils(WDCs) on the proposed rule changes. The sector feedback has been that they are looking to understand how RoVE and legislative changes are going to be operationalised by NZQA. The new rules do just that and will give the sector an enabling framework to operate within.
12. We have worked alongside MoE, WDCs and other parties on aspects of these rule changes. The final draft version attached to this paper has also been sent to the Ministry of Education, WDCs, Immigration New Zealand, Education New Zealand, the Tertiary Education Commission and Universities New Zealand for comment. We will consider their feedback and make changes to the consultation document accordingly, before formally consulting on changes to the NZQA Rules.

Consultation

13. We intend to consult for a period of six weeks, starting late August 2022. The consultation information will be available on NZQA's website and will be open to the wider sector and any other interested party to respond.
14. We will invite relevant stakeholders to provide feedback on the proposed changes through an online feedback tool and through direct communication and targeted meetings. We intend to engage specifically with Māori stakeholders.

Next steps

15. We will analyse and consider the feedback and any issues raised during consultation before finalising the proposed rules. We will publish a summary report of the findings from the consultation.

16. We expect to have the proposed rules prepared for approval by the NZQA Board at the end of October 2022. Following Board approval, we will seek your approval of the changes to the NZQA Rules. Should you approve the amended rules, they will be presented in the House of Representatives and come into effect 28 days after you have approved them.



Dr Grant Klinkum

Chief Executive

15 August 2022



Hon Chris Hipkins

Minister of Education

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