

## Briefing: Changes to level 7 diplomas

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<b>To:</b>	Hon Penny Simmonds, Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills
<b>From:</b>	Dr Grant Klinkum, Chief Executive
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<b>Reference:</b>	OC00643

### Purpose

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1. To outline the changes NZQA has made to the Rules for level 7 diplomas.
2. To describe progress to date in phasing out level 7 diplomas and where appropriate replacing them with 'New Zealand' diplomas.

### Background

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3. In previous consultation on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF), the question was asked if level 7 diplomas should be removed or if they should meet the same requirements as 'New Zealand' qualifications at levels 1–6.
4. The feedback was that level 7 diplomas provide an opportunity for learners to study at this level without having to commit to 3 years (or more) to complete a degree, particularly in fields where degree level study is not required. A good example is the New Zealand Diploma in Air Traffic Services where the outcomes are at level 7, but a degree is not required by the industry.
5. Changes were made to the Qualification and Micro-credential Listing and Operational Rules in 2022 for level 7 diplomas to meet the requirements to be New Zealand diplomas in order to be listed on the Framework. This provision does not apply to university level 7 diplomas.
6. The transition to New Zealand diplomas at level 7 will occur over the next four years as qualifications are reviewed. As of February 2024, there are 38 level 7 diplomas and one New Zealand diploma at level 7 on the NZQCF<sup>1</sup> (excluding university qualifications), with the majority developed by private training establishments. One New Zealand diploma is generally expected to replace several similar existing diplomas.
7. There is an opportunity for level 7 New Zealand diplomas to be developed by standard setting bodies (SSBs). These would be vocational qualifications required by the relevant industry, and depending on the scope of SSBs, could be based on skill standards along with other industry qualifications.

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<sup>1</sup> The NZQF formally became the NZQCF in 2022

## Next steps

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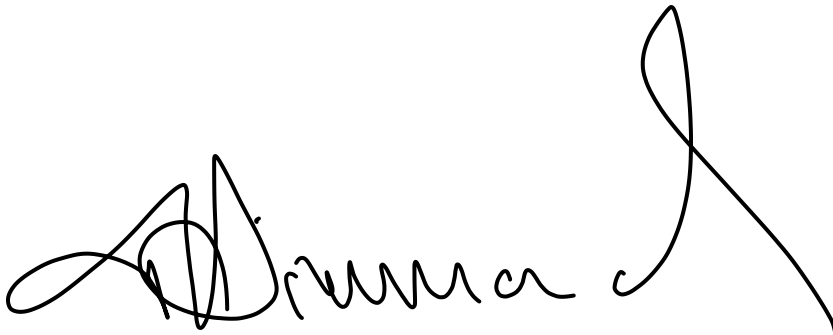
8. Qualification developers will continue to review their existing level 7 diplomas and develop New Zealand diplomas where appropriate. The remaining level 7 diplomas will be phased out over the next four years.
9. NZQA proposes to proactively release this briefing as part of the next publication of documents.



**Dr Grant Klinkum**

Chief Executive, NZQA

16 February 2024



**Hon Penny Simmonds**

Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills

17.2.24