

1 April 2025



Tēnā koe

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your request, transferred to NZQA on 27 February 2025, under the Official Information Act 1982, for the following information:

- *Any written advice (including, but not limited to, reports, aide-memoires, briefings) provided to the Minister during the week of February 17th 2025 in his capacity as Minister for Universities.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982.

NZQA has one report in scope of this request. We provided the Minister for Universities *Aide-Memoire: Quality Assurance of Wānanga and Administration of Code of Practice 2021* on 20 February 2025.

A copy of this report is attached.

Our response to your request may be published on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed before publication.

If you require further assistance or believe we have misinterpreted your request, please contact Elizabeth Templeton in the Office of the Chief Executive, email elizabeth.templeton@nzqa.govt.nz or telephone (04) 463 3339.

You have the right to seek an investigation or review by the Ombudsman of this decision under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982. Details of how to make a complaint can be found at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz. You can also telephone 0800 802 502 or write to the Ombudsman at PO Box 10152, Wellington, 6143.

Nāku nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grant Klinkum'.

Dr Grant Klinkum
Pouwhakahaere/Chief Executive

Aide-Memoire: **QUALITY ASSURANCE OF WĀNANGA AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE 2021**

To:	Hon Shane Reti, Minister for Universities
From:	Dr Grant Klinkum, Chief Executive
Date:	20 February 2025
Reference:	OC01524

Purpose

1. We provided you with a briefing on your university portfolio on 24 January 2025. Ahead of our meeting with you on Thursday 27 March, we are providing additional information on two additional areas within your portfolio responsibilities that relate to NZQA's role:
 - NZQA's qualifications and quality assurance work with Wānanga
 - NZQA's role as Administrator for the Education (Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners) Code of Practice 2021 ('the Code').
2. NZQA proposes to proactively release this briefing as part of the next publication of documents.

Background - Wānanga

3. There are currently three wānanga recognised under the Education and Training Act 2020:
 - Te Wānanga o Aotearoa
 - Te Wānanga o Raukawa
 - Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi.
4. NZQA is the lead agency for the quality assurance of education provided by wānanga.
5. A wānanga is characterised by the teaching and research that maintains, advances, and disseminates knowledge and develops intellectual independence, and assists the application of knowledge regarding āhuatanga Māori (Māori tradition) according to tikanga Māori (Māori custom).
6. The Education and Training Act 2020 assures wānanga academic freedom and institutional autonomy as a tertiary education institution
7. Wānanga have an important role in improving equity of educational outcomes for Māori. Wānanga also contribute significantly to the education of non-Māori particularly within the areas of te Reo and Tikanga Māori.
8. Wānanga provide a wide range of qualifications and credentials across all levels of the New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework (NZQCF). Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi is the only Wānanga to enrol international students.

9. The total number of qualifications and credentials that wānanga are currently approved to deliver are summarised in the table below:

Wānanga	Sub-degree	Degree and above
Te Wānanga o Aotearoa	65	14
Te Wānanga o Raukawa	30	37
Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi	37	21

10. Key differences in the range of offerings to ākonga by Wānanga include:
- Te Wānanga o Aotearoa has a higher number, and proportion of, sub-degree qualifications
 - Te Wānanga o Raukawa offers the highest proportion, and number of, bachelors and masters degrees
 - Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi is the only wānanga that offers doctorate (level 10) qualifications.
11. For all degrees approved by NZQA, an external expert is appointed to monitor the performance of the degree annually. Degrees leading to professional registration also must meet professional regulatory body requirements (for example, the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand). NZQA works closely with relevant regulatory bodies in relation to our respective and distinct quality assurance responsibilities.
12. Wānanga may choose to be quality assured by NZQA under the 'general' evaluative quality assurance framework, or under Te Hono o Te Kahurangi, a whare ako framework under which a set of inter-connected kaupapa are used to guide evaluative conversations and decisions about:
- what quality looks like in the educational context of the organisation
 - how the organisation knows they are meeting the needs of ākonga, whānau, hapū, iwi and hapori Māori
 - whether the organisation has the capacity and capability to deliver and sustain educational outcomes
 - how well the organisation is able to understand and improve its overall educational performance.
13. External Evaluation and Review (EER) is the independent review of tertiary education organisations (TEOs) by NZQA. It provides assurance that tertiary education in New Zealand is high quality. As a result of an EER, TEOs receive a category based on NZQA's levels of confidence in its educational performance and capability in self-assessment. A category 1 or 2 rating indicates we are confident or highly confident in the TEO.
14. The outcomes of the most recent EERs for Wānanga are summarised in the table below:

Wānanga	EER Date	EER Category
Te Wānanga o Aotearoa	2022	2
Te Wānanga o Raukawa	2019	1
Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi	2023	1

15. A review of NZQA's quality assurance framework is well advanced, and we plan to initiate a review of Te Hono o Te Kahurangi in 2025.

16. NZQA is also supporting the Ministry of Education in its work with wānanga to better recognise the Tiriti-based relationship between the Wānanga and the Crown, the mana and rangatiratanga of the Wānanga, and the unique role they play in the tertiary education system.

Background – The Code

17. The Code is issued by the responsible Minister and is a well-being and safety code of practice issued under the Education and Training Act (section 534). It requires providers to take all reasonable steps to maintain the wellbeing and safety of all international students (including those enrolled in schools) and all domestic tertiary students, including those at universities. Providers must ensure, as far as is practicable, that students have a positive experience that supports their educational achievement.
18. In September 2022, NZQA was appointed as the Code Administrator by the Minister of Education. The role is set out in the Act (section 535A) and Part 8 of the Code.
19. The Administrator approves applications from schools and tertiary education providers to become a Code signatory which is required to enrol international students in New Zealand. There are 1,100 Code signatories made up of 375 tertiary education providers and 725 school signatories.
20. Responsibilities include oversight of how education providers are giving effect to and complying with the Code, as well as issuing guidance to support providers. The Administrator monitors the effectiveness of the Code in reaching its intended outcomes.
21. On a day-to-day basis, we provide advice and guidance to providers and learners; approve applications to become a Code Signatory and monitor providers' compliance with the Code. When required we also investigate complaints and referrals about alleged Code breaches and take appropriate action to address proven breaches by providers. Our approach, priorities and activities as Code Administrator are set out in our Code Administrator Plan.
22. To date, our primary focus has been on building awareness and understanding of the requirements of the Code. We continue to provide a range of capability-building activities, including facilitating workshops and publishing guidance.
23. As part of our monitoring role, we require an annual attestation that the provider has undertaken a self-review of their performance against the required outcomes and processes in the Code. We review a sample of self-review reports, and monitor key Code outcomes (such as student accommodation) to determine how effectively an organisation is complying with the Code.
24. We have reviewed tertiary student accommodation (including reviewing documentation, visiting accommodation, and interviewing staff and students). Overall, we found that the necessary practices were in place to meet the wellbeing and safety requirements outlined in the Code. The review of university student accommodation was undertaken by Universities New Zealand with NZQA supporting site visits.
25. There have been no Code breaches requiring statutory action identified by NZQA to date.
26. Sections 535A(6) and 633(5) of the Act allow the Code Administrator, with the prior written approval of yourself as the Minister responsible, to delegate any or all of the functions, duties, and powers specified in these sections to another person or agency having regard to their knowledge, skills, or experience.
27. In March 2023, with written approval from the Minister of Education, we delegated some of our role as it relates to universities to the New Zealand Vice Chancellors Committee (NZVCC) trading as Universities New Zealand (UNZ).
28. The Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills (as the Minister previously responsible for the Code) and the Minister of Education (as NZQA's responsible Minister and the Minister responsible for the Act) gave in principle approval for an expanded delegation in December 2024. As outlined in our briefing of 24 January 2025, NZQA and the Ministry of Education will

provide you with further information on the option of delegating further responsibilities to the universities.

Next steps

29. NZQA can provide further details to your office on any matters referred to in this Aide Memoire on any other related matters where more information is required.



Dr Grant Klinkum

Chief Executive

20 February 2025

Hon Shane Reti

Minister for Universities

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