

23 March 2020

Dear 

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your request of 27 February 2020, under the Official Information Act 1982, for the following information:

How many applications has NZQA received to check the qualifications of overseas-based early childhood teachers who are seeking to come to New Zealand, since the occupation "early childhood teacher" was placed on the skills shortage list with Immigration New Zealand?

For how many of these people are their qualifications such that they are likely to enter New Zealand as part of the untrained early childhood education workforce (i.e. the qualification will not be recognised in New Zealand?)

The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) responds to this request as follows:

How many applications has NZQA received to check the qualifications of overseas-based early childhood teachers who are seeking to come to New Zealand, since the occupation "early childhood teacher" was placed on the skills shortage list with Immigration New Zealand?

NZQA assesses overseas qualifications for different purposes, including teacher registration, teacher salary assessment and immigration. Skill shortage lists are considered if applicants request this as part of their International Qualifications Assessment (IQA) application.

The Regional Skill Shortage List that contains the occupation "Early Childhood Teacher" was first published on 27 May 2019. From that date to 5 March 2020 (inclusive), NZQA processed a total of 110 IQA applications that included qualifications whose names contain the keywords "early childhood", "pre-primary" or "kindergarten". This represents a total of 122 qualifications assessed - a single IQA application may include up to five qualifications for assessment.

Of those IQA applications, 86 were for teacher registration and/or teacher salary assessment purposes (97 qualifications in total); 24 were for other purposes (25 qualifications in total).

For how many of these people are their qualifications such that they are likely to enter New Zealand as part of the untrained early childhood education workforce (i.e. the qualification will not be recognised in New Zealand?)

NZQA does not hold data on the employment opportunities that are available to applicants who have requested an assessment of the qualification(s) they have gained overseas.

NZQA can however advise the assessment outcomes for those 122 qualifications:

- 35 qualifications were recognised by NZQA and assessed as meeting the core knowledge requirements of a New Zealand Initial Teacher Education programme specialising in Early Childhood Education;
- The remaining 81 qualifications were recognised by NZQA but not in the Early Childhood Education specialisation. They were either assessed as meeting the core knowledge requirements of a New Zealand Initial Teacher Education programme specialising in Primary Education, or no teacher registration or teacher salary assessment was requested by the applicant;
- Six qualifications did not meet the criteria to be deemed qualifications in reference to the New Zealand Qualifications Framework.

Please note, once an NZQA teaching assessment is complete, NZQA refers applicants to the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand, who make the decisions for registration.

As part of the commitment to open and transparent government, NZQA is proactively releasing responses to Official Information Act requests which are of public interest. NZQA will be publishing its response to your request on its website in June 2020. Your name and contact details will be removed before publication.

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

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to lodge a complaint with the Office of the Ombudsman at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz. You can also telephone 0800 802 502 or write to the Ombudsman at PO Box 10152, Wellington, 6143.

Yours sincerely



Karen Poutasi (Dr)
Chief Executive