



Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

25 October 2022

[Redacted]

Tēnā koe [Redacted]

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 of 3 October 2022 seeking the following information:

I would like to enquire about ST4955 reviewed in December 2016 and still current. I would like any documents regarding 2016 the review and to know how it was justified to officially validate Sports Massage when it has been found to have no benefit for athletes.

The qualification developer is responsible, in conjunction with the relevant stakeholders, for validating the academic merit of a qualification. Southern Institute of Technology, as the developer for the Bachelor of Therapeutic and Sports Massage was required to work in collaboration with industry, stakeholders, subject matter experts and utilise evidence-based research. NZQA subsequently quality assured the programme leading to the qualification through a panel of subject matter experts, and in accordance with NZQA's [Programme Approval and Accreditation Rules 2018](#).

We attach the 2016 Evaluation report for the Bachelor of Therapeutic and Sports massage as requested. We note that this was in response to the provider's application to change aspects of the programme rather than a full review.

Appendix	Title
A	2016 Evaluation report for the Bachelor of Therapeutic and Sports Massage

In your email of 3 October, you also refer to an advertisement. There is no misrepresentation of an NZQA approved qualification in the advertisement, which is the only related matter over which NZQA has authority.

Please also note that there is no statutory requirement for the registration and regulation of sports massage therapy. Any individual, qualified or not, can practice massage provided they comply with New Zealand law.

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 intends to publish its response to this request on its website with the next quarterly release. 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.

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.

Nāku nā



Dr Grant Klinkum
Pouwhakahaere/Chief Executive

Evaluation Report

ITP: Southern Institute of Technology

Qualification: Bachelor of Therapeutic and Sports Massage

Application Type: Type 2 Change

Report Date: 02 December 2016

Application Details

Programme Name: Bachelor of Therapeutic and Sports Massage

Application Type: Type 2 Change

Report Date: 02 December 2016

NZQA reference number: C25501

Credits: 360

Level: 7

Evaluation Type

Evaluation type: Desk Evaluation

Evaluator: [REDACTED], Senior Evaluator

Introduction

The present application is for a Type 2 change to the Southern Institute of Technology (SIT) Bachelor of Therapeutic and Sports Massage. This is the result of a review of the programme, which signalled a need to ensure the continuity of core threads such as ethics, evidence-based practice, and teamwork across the programme. With work underway to align Level 5 and Level 6 content with the New Zealand Diploma in Wellness and Relaxation Massage and the New Zealand Diploma in Remedial Massage, the monitor considered that SIT has an excellent opportunity to recalibrate the curriculum.

SIT has a history of delivery of full-time and part-time massage and health care programmes, papers and unit standards that spans forty years. At present the ITP offers a range of certificate and diploma programmes in massage over and above the bachelor degree. The Bachelor of Therapeutic and Sports Massage enjoys a high profile as a vocational, applied programme which prepares graduates for a comprehensive range of careers in the field of massage. Features of the degree include students' involvement in massage practice with real industry clients.

Graduates of the programme will have developed their capacity as independent, life-long learners, with the potential to acquire further skills through practice and experience. As practitioners, graduates will have the ability to work independently and in collaborative environments, assuming leadership and responsibility for their professional practice in a broad spectrum of roles. It is envisaged that the dual capabilities of independent and collaborative practice acquired during the programme will allow a natural transition into the professional world either within New Zealand or overseas.

The review of the programme examined component descriptors, and amended their learning outcomes to render them less numerous, but simultaneously more comprehensive and robust. There is also a broadening of the scope of the outcomes across the programme which enhances its overall flexibility. However, these amendments have not impacted the strategic purpose or graduate profile of the degree.

The restructuring of Year 3 has redistributed existing content between components to contextualise learning and contribute to the acquisition of knowledge, skills and behaviours needed for the scope of professional practice. The redevelopment of the former MT370 Health Psychology and Therapeutics III into two components (MT7360 Advanced Professional Studies, and MT7370 Therapeutics III) will enrich the Therapeutics content of the programme and allow it to be studied in greater depth. The new Advanced Professional Studies component will further develop students' personal growth as advancing practitioners and equip them with the skills and professional knowledge to pathway into the industry, equipped with strong research/academic skills and a solid basis for reflective practice.

The need for students to become increasingly independent is reflected in a reduction in Level 7 face-to-face learning hours. With self-directed learning being measurable through a broad range of assessments involving critiquing, research, and portfolio work, as well as through on-going lecturer monitoring, students will take a reflective and investigative approach to their learning. This evidence-based practice will be instrumental in their journey

towards becoming independent, reflective practitioners with responsibility both for their own development, and their contributions to the industry.

Analysis against the Criteria for a Type 2 Change

Criterion 1 Internal and external consultation and support for the changes

The proposed changes were put forward at the SIT Academic Board meeting of 15 September 2016 for approval. Appropriate evidence of approval has been submitted.

Feedback over the past five years from the programme monitor has formed the basis for the review, and delivery staff have tracked those changes. A main impetus for the rearrangement of content and changes to component descriptors has been to broaden their objectives and present the degree in a more flexible, albeit robust, light. The delivery staff have been involved in on-going consultation; and have actively participated in reviewing the existing components and developing the new components.

The changes to the programme, apart from the re-coding of the components, were endorsed in the degree monitor's report of March 2016. The revised component descriptors were sent to him for consideration, and his feedback incorporated into the final version. The programme advisory committee met twice to consider and approve the updated components, and ensure that they would map accurately to the graduate profile and continue to meet sector expectations.

It is therefore considered that internal and external consultation around the changes has been well-targeted and sufficient.

This criterion is met.

Criterion 2 Internal formal approval (Academic Board or equivalent body) for the changes

The application included the minutes of the SIT Academic Board of 15 September 2016. The minutes clearly state approval for the changes to the Bachelor of Therapeutic and Sports Massage.

This criterion is met.

Criterion 3 The proposed changes to the course continue to meet approval and accreditation criteria

The review of the degree included a comprehensive updating of the components descriptors, and some redistribution of content across the programme. It was determined that some content currently at Level 5 was better suited to a more analytical approach to the application of knowledge required at Level 6. Modification of learning outcomes at component level has resulted in the removal of some, where they were duplicated in other components. In other cases, learning outcomes have been blended into more comprehensive statements of the knowledge and skills developed through studying the

given component. The reduction in the number of component outcomes is considered to be an appropriate response to monitor feedback.

In a similar vein, some adjustments to assessments at Level 5 and 6 have been made; including a reduction in the number of assessments where necessary to gain consistency across components. These changes have been discussed in detail and continue to adhere to programme approval and accreditation criteria.

SIT has restructured the third year of the degree. Initially it constituted two 45-credit components (MT340 Research and Advanced Professional Development, and MT370 Health Psychology and Therapeutics III), and one 30-credit component (MT350 Advanced Clinical Reasoning and Clinical Practice III). The new structure re-codes and reduces MT340 Research and Advanced Professional Development to 30 credits, while re-coding and retaining MT350 Advanced Clinical Reasoning and Clinical Practice III at 30 credits. The former MT370 Health Psychology and Therapeutics III, however, has been redeveloped into two components – MT360 Advanced Professional Studies, and MT370 Therapeutics III. This has allowed the Therapeutics content of the programme to be expanded and studied in greater depth.

The redevelopment of the third year of the degree has seen some redistribution of content between components to better contextualise learning and to strengthen the acquisition of knowledge, skills and behaviours necessary within the scope of practice. Consequently, component learning outcomes have been rewritten to allow greater flexibility, and to reflect the dynamic nature of knowledge within the field.

The Advanced Professional Studies component is intended to further develop students' personal growth as advancing practitioners and equip them with the skills and professional knowledge to advance in the industry. Key to this will be opportunities to review and further develop research skills which will support professional practice and contribute to the wider massage therapy industry. Additionally, students will graduate as reflective practitioners with an ability to critically reflect on and engage with opportunities for their own professional growth. As such, the component is pivotal in developing graduates capable of actively engaging with, and contributing to, their industry both nationally and globally.

The restructure of Year 3 has also resulted in some changes to assessment approaches, again in line with monitor feedback. In the case of Advanced Clinical Reasoning and Clinical Practice, the change to a portfolio assessment (100%) is more indicative of the applied nature of the component. Similarly, a more contemporary approach to assessment of learning is evidenced in the substitution of a report for an examination in component MT370 Therapeutics.

The overall learning hours for the programme have been modified in line with stakeholder feedback. The reduction in the face to face hours from 450 to 360 in Year 3 supports the more independent nature of Level 7 learning. It also takes into account the transition from the more 'taught' former structure, to one which assumes an increasingly reflective and investigative approach in order to develop independent practitioners with responsibility for

their own development. Within the delivery methodology, however, self-directed learning continues to be relevant, valid and measurable.

This criterion is met.

Criterion 4 Resource (including staffing) implications have been planned for

The programme will continue to utilise existing physical resources; hence there is no further impact on resourcing. Similarly, there are no staffing implications as a result of the review of the programme.

This criterion is met.

Criterion 5 Systems Implications have been planned for

There are no systems implications brought about by the changes to the programme.

This criterion is met.

Criterion 6 Changes to regulations have been planned for

While the programme has been restructured, programme regulations continue to be relevant and appropriate. It is also noted that SIT has actively implemented the 2014 University Entrance Requirements and the updated English-language requirements since their inception; and has formalised those entry requirements.

This criterion is met.

Criterion 7 Transition arrangements have been planned for

While the programme has undergone structural amendments, and updating of the descriptors, component content across the programme has not been impacted to any significant extent. However, the application demonstrates how transition could be managed by mapping the redeveloped components against the existing components, and this is appropriate.

This criterion is met.

Criterion 8 QMS

The changes to the degree are not considered to have an impact on the QMS.

This criterion is met.

To NZQA

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the application by Southern Institute of Technology for a Type 2 change to the Bachelor of Therapeutic and Sports Massage to:

- Update component descriptors, across the programme levels including an updating of component learning outcomes, and redistribution of content;
- Amend the programme's directed learning hours;
- Restructure Year 3 of the degree with the redistribution of content, amendment to component learning outcomes, the introduction of two new papers: MT7360 Advanced Professional Studies, and MT7370 Therapeutics 111, to replace MT370 Health Psychology and Therapeutics III;
- Re-code components;
- Change some assessment methodologies;
- Transfer MT6210 Pathology for Massage Practitioners to V1 category

be approved.


Evaluator

02 December 2016