

Early Learning Qualifications Review Plan | October 2025

Hei Timatanga

Introduction

Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora te iwi

These qualifications are an important mechanism for building the capacity and capability of ākonga, whānau and iwi; empowering them to exercise rangatiratanga and to make effective contributions of consequence to te ao Māori today and into the future.

Mātauranga Māori is at the heart of these qualifications, embedding Māori values, traditions, and perspectives into the Graduate Profile Outcomes and Guiding Principles.

Qualification reviews are being undertaken as part of a maintenance cycle, which focuses on ensuring that they continue to meet the overall needs of whānau, hapū, iwi, and the sector; and remain aligned with the rules for listing qualifications on the New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework (NZQCF).

For the duration of the review, [Māori Qualifications Services \(MQS\)](#) will work in collaboration with stakeholders to support the review and development of qualifications that:

- meet the current and future needs of ākonga, whānau, hapū, iwi and hapori Māori
- are easy to understand for end users and other stakeholders
- enable and support high quality education, employment and/or community pathways
- represent value, and are recognised as useful and relevant by users and others with an interest in the suite of qualifications
- are achievable in different delivery contexts
- contribute to the strengthening of Māori and the advancement of mātauranga Māori.

Working collaboratively, and with the establishment of Whakaruruhau panel, MQS will work in the spirit of manaakitanga, kotahitanga, and whanaungatanga to ensure the successful implementation of this review.

Tāhuhu Kōrero

Background

These qualifications were first listed on the NZQCF in 2015 because of the mandatory review of qualifications. This is the second review of the qualifications since being listed.

Te Whānuitanga

Scope of the review

The scope of the review involves the following qualifications:

Qualification	Level	Credits	Qualification Developer
He Taonga te Mokopuna [2854]	2	60	MQS
Te Mana o te Mokopuna [2855]	3	60	MQS
Te Puāwaitanga o te Mokopuna [2856]	4	60	MQS
Te Tipuranga o te Mokopuna [2857]	5	120	MQS
Te Rangatiratanga o te Mokopuna [2858]	6	120	MQS

Ngā hua me ngā whakaputanga

Expected outputs and outcomes

Ko te reo kia tika, ko te reo kia rere, ko te reo kia Māori

On completion of the review, a Qualification Review report will be submitted to the NZQA Quality Assurance Māori team for approval to list on the NZQCF. The report will include:

A summary of:

- the review and consultation process
- the stakeholders involved in the review
- any recommendations for amended and/or new pathways which have been identified through the review
- any risks associated with transitioning to the suite of qualifications.

Details of:

- each qualification included in the review along with a recommendation of any change to these qualifications (this includes the proposed date for the qualification status to be changed – from current to expiring or discontinued)

- the new qualification or suite of qualifications and the proposed date by which development will be completed.

Evidence attached to the report will include:

- stakeholder attestation reports and Application to List a Qualification form.

Te Huarahi

The Approach

E koekoe te tūī, e ketekete te kākā, e kūkū te kererū

Step One: Preparing for the review of the qualifications

In preparation for the review, MQS will undertake the following actions/ activities:

- Gathering research and data to inform an initial overview of the qualifications to be reviewed. This information may include:
 - ✓ labour market information
 - ✓ qualification usage data from NZQA
- Other research from relevant providers, industry and government agencies, including:
 - ✓ information on graduate outcomes (employment, pathways to higher education, performance information)
 - ✓ database of industry stakeholders (including Māori stakeholders) and networks for consultation
 - ✓ information about possible qualification structures
 - ✓ feedback and kōrero from whānau, hapu, iwi who contribute to the qualifications being reviewed.

Step Two: Planning the Review

A Whakaruruhau panel will be established to provide detailed and technical input into the review and development of the qualifications to be reviewed.

Feedback will be sought from education organisations and industry, whānau, hapū, iwi and other end-users on current qualifications and any gaps in the suite of qualifications.

Step Three: Conducting the Review

The current qualifications will be mapped to sector requirements to help determine if the current qualifications are fit for purpose.

Where qualifications are not fit for purpose, or where gaps are identified, new drafts will be developed based on an analysis of all information gathered and discussed. This may include development of draft strategic purpose statements, outcome statements (graduate profile, education pathways, and employment/ cultural/ community pathways).

Once completed, a new qualification or suite of qualifications will be presented to the Whakaruruhau panel for feedback/approval prior to being released for full consultation.

Step Four: Reporting the Review and submission to NZQA

Following the consultation process, MQS will draft a report with recommendations for the reviewed or new qualification(s) or suite of qualifications. This draft will be reviewed and revised as needed by the Whakaruruhau panel before the final report and qualifications are submitted to NZQA Quality Assurance Māori for approval.

Te Whakaputanga

Consultation and communication

Titiro whakamuri, kōkiri whakamua

Throughout the review process, MQS will develop and maintain a database of stakeholders. Organisations and individuals will have the opportunity to be added to the database at any time throughout the review.

To ensure all stakeholders are aware of the review progress and have an opportunity for input, there will be on-going electronic communications distributed, including:

- the qualifications review page on the NZQA website to host all communications including Whakaruruhau panel meeting outcomes, and draft documents for consultation
- e-mail communications throughout the review, directing stakeholders to the review page on the NZQA website.

It is acknowledged that this form of consultation (electronic) will not meet the needs of all stakeholders. As a result, face to face consultation processes may be put in place, where appropriate, to engage those stakeholders to ensure their input is captured.

A comprehensive Communications Plan will be developed and monitored to ensure whānau, hapū, iwi, and other stakeholders have multiple opportunities to feed in, and receive feedback from, the review.

Te Hono o te Kahurangi

Māori evaluative framework

Approval to list the qualifications subsequent to this review will be sought under [Te Hono o Te Kahurangi](#). It is proposed then that, the review and evaluation be conducted under the kaupapa of Te Hono o Te Kahurangi, namely:

Rangatiratanga

The review will reflect a unique and distinctively Māori approach to ensure the needs of ākonga; the wider community and other key stakeholders are met.

Whanaungatanga

The care of ākonga, whānau, hapu, iwi and mātauranga Māori itself will be fundamental outcome of the review.

Manaakitanga

The presence and expressions of mana-enhancing behaviours and practices will be evident between all review participants.

Pūkengatanga

Those directly involved in the review will have the skills and knowledge needed to ensure that the values, beliefs, needs and aspirations of the people are met.

Kaitiakitanga

All review participants will ensure that the authenticity, integrity, and use of mātauranga Māori is protected, maintained, and transmitted appropriately.

Te reo Māori

As the primary vehicle for expressing and transmitting Māori knowledge, values, and culture, te reo Māori is practiced, promoted and celebrated.

Ngā mahi me ngā haepapa

Roles and responsibilities

Whakaruruhau Panel

Representing key stakeholders with experience in qualification development and delivery, the Whakaruruhau panel will look strategically across the sector/industry included in the review and consider the current and future workforce development needs and associated qualifications.

MQS will collaborate with the Whakaruruhau panel to:

- act as the secretariat for the review and prepare papers for wider consultation
- monitor progress, process, outputs, and outcomes
- ensure all stakeholders are engaged and represented.

The Whakaruruhau panel will also conduct the qualification review, including the development of strategic purpose statement(s) and qualification outcome statement(s) (including graduate profile(s)).

Ngā rawa

Resources and costs

The review of New Zealand qualifications is based on a **contributory model**.

For the purpose of this review, MQS will assume the costs of the hui venue and catering, as well as administration costs.

The following support will also be provided:

- preparing and disseminating agenda and related papers, schedule of meetings and meeting records; documents required for approval to develop and approval to list qualifications; consultation documents and collated feedback from consultation
- maintaining web pages for information and consultation.

Where required, panel members, or their associated organisations, will assume the following costs if required:

- travel, accommodation and associated costs
- breakfast and evening meal allowances.

In special circumstances and with prior agreement from the Manager, Ngā Poutoko Aromatawai Māori (NZQA), the following may be provided for agreed person(s):

- travel, accommodation and meals
- vehicle and taxi travel reimbursement
- breakfast and evening meal allowances.