

Cabinet Paper material

Proactive release

Minister & portfolio Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education
Name of package Review of New Zealand Qualifications Framework
Date considered 1 July 2019

These documents have been proactively released:

Cabinet paper: Review of New Zealand Qualifications Framework

Date considered: 26 June 2019, Social Wellbeing Committee
Author: Ministry of Education

Consultation document: Review of New Zealand Qualifications Framework

Date considered: 26 June 2019, Social Wellbeing Committee
Author: New Zealand Qualifications Authority
This document is available online [here](#).

Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee minute – SWC-19-MIN-0082

Date considered: 26 June 2019 Social Wellbeing Committee
Author: Cabinet Office

Cabinet minute – CAB-19-MIN-0329

Date considered: 1 July 2019
Author: Cabinet Office

Material redacted

Some deletions have been made from the documents as the information withheld does not fall within scope of the Minister's portfolio responsibilities, and is not relevant to the proactive release of this material.

In Confidence

Office of the Minister of Education
Chair, Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

REVIEW OF NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Proposal

1. This paper informs you about public consultation on proposed changes to the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (see the consultation document attached in annex 1).

New Zealand Qualifications Framework

2. Under section 246A (1)(c and d) of the Education Act 1989, New Zealand Qualification Authority (NZQA) is responsible for maintaining the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF) and the Directory of Assessment Standards, and maintaining mechanisms for the recognition of learning.
3. NZQA is reviewing the NZQF to ensure it remains fit for purpose, flexible and adaptive to the future needs of learners, employers, iwi and other stakeholders.
4. Working with employers, professional bodies, the tertiary education sector, government agencies and others, NZQA developed some initial proposals for change. In 2018, NZQA consulted on four high level proposals:
 - 4.1. *Proposal 1:* include a wider range of education products on the NZQF
 - 4.2. *Proposal 2:* more explicitly embed transferable competencies into the NZQF (e.g. critical thinking, communication, collaboration and citizenship)
 - 4.3. *Proposal 3:* address some long standing technical issues in the NZQF
 - 4.4. *Proposal 4:* make the NZQF easier to use and more relevant to all stakeholders. This includes ensuring that mātauranga Māori is reflected throughout the framework and that mātauranga Māori qualifications are recognised.

Consultation document summary

5. Following feedback, NZQA has refined the proposals and developed a further consultation document (see annex 1). The consultation document now has eight proposals, which are outlined below.

Proposal one – including a wider range of education products onto a broader credentials framework

6. NZQA proposes the creation of the New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework which would incorporate the NZQF, the Directory of Achievement Standards (the DAS) and any New Zealand quality-assured education products. This would provide more information to learners in one place, enabling clearer pathways and lifelong learning.

Proposal two – embedding 21st century competencies into the NZQF

7. NZQA is seeking feedback on how 21st century competencies (communication, collaboration, critical thinking and global citizenship) can be included in the NZQF. This proposal would equip learners with the skills needed for work and to fully participate in a 21st century society.

Proposal three – ensuring that vocational qualifications can be listed at higher levels of the framework through revising the level and qualification type descriptors

8. NZQA wants to better enable vocational qualifications at higher levels on the NZQF. The level and qualification type descriptors will more explicitly reflect both academic and vocational contexts and this will better allow for the development of higher level vocational qualifications.

Proposals four to eight – addressing technical issues and making the NZQF more accessible to all stakeholders

9. NZQA is seeking feedback on options for addressing some long-standing technical issues. These include:
 - quality issues within the level 7 Diplomas
 - difficulties in referencing level 8 of the NZQF with other jurisdictions because of the two pathways to the level 8 Bachelor Honours Degree
 - clarifying that degree apprenticeships are currently enabled.
10. Proposal eight, making the NZQF more accessible to all stakeholders and ensuring that mātauranga Māori is reflected throughout the framework, will be addressed in the latter stages of NZQA's review.

Qualifications that are better for employers and industry

11. The revised proposals are well aligned with the review of vocational education (RoVE). I want a one-stop shop for information about qualifications and learning. The proposed revisions to the qualifications system will support a better integrated vocational education learning and higher level vocational qualifications that better meet the needs of employers and industries.

Consultation

12. NZQA intends to publicly consult on the proposals for a period of six weeks. The proposals will be released for public consultation at the same time as the RoVE announcements.
13. As part of the consultation NZQA will engage with the different stakeholder groups that helped shape the initial proposals for change to the NZQF in 2018. These groups were specific to each of Māori, Pasifika, education organisations, students, professional bodies, and employers. For some stakeholders, this engagement was with established groups, and for others new arrangements were established specifically to seek their views on the NZQF.
14. We intend to seek advice from relevant members of our NZQF Review Advisory Group and the Office of Disability Issues on appropriate ways to engage specifically on the educational needs of people with learning support needs and disabilities.
15. The following agencies have had the opportunity to comment on the draft NZQF consultation document: Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education Commission, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry for Pacific Peoples and Education New Zealand
16. The following agencies have been consulted on this paper: New Zealand Qualifications Authority, Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education Commission and the Education Review Office.

Financial implications

17. The proposals will be funded using existing NZQA funding.

Legislative implications

18. The consultation document is seeking feedback on proposals which may result in legislative change. If this is the case, a Cabinet paper will seek approval for the legislative changes and provide information about the impact of any such changes.

Human rights

19. All of the proposals appear to be consistent with the rights and freedoms affirmed in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993.

Gender implications and disability perspective

20. There are no gender or disability implications in relation to these proposals.

Publicity

21. The opportunity to comment on the discussion documents will be publicised through NZQA's website and social media. The NZQA will also contact key stakeholders directly to seek their input.

Proactive Release

22. I intend to proactively release this Cabinet paper.

Recommendations

23. The Minister recommends that the Committee:

1. **note** that, when I make announcements about the review of vocational education, the New Zealand Qualifications Agency (NZQA) will release a consultation document on proposed changes to the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF) for public comment.
2. **note** that NZQA is responsible for maintaining the NZQF and the Directory of Assessment Standards, and maintaining mechanisms for the recognition of learning.
3. **note** that NZQA will publicly consult on the proposed changes for a period of six weeks
4. **note** that the proposed changes are intended to broaden and strengthen the NZQF to ensure it remains fit for purpose, flexible and adaptive to the future needs of learners, employers, iwi and other stakeholders.
5. **note** that NZQA's proposals will broaden and strengthen the NZQF by:
 - 5.1 including a wider range of education products on the NZQF (proposal 1)
 - 5.2 embedding transferable competencies into the NZQF (proposal 2)
 - 5.3 addressing a range of long standing technical issues with the NZQF (proposals 3 – 7)
 - 5.4 making the NZQF easier to use and more relevant to all stakeholders (proposal 8).
6. **note** that the proposals may result in legislative change. If this is the case, a Cabinet paper will seek approval for the legislative changes and provide information about the impact of any such changes.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Chris Hipkins

Minister of Education



Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Review of the New Zealand Qualifications Framework

Portfolio Education

On 26 June 2019, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC):

- 1 **noted** that, when the Minister of Education makes announcements about the review of vocational education, the New Zealand Qualifications Agency (the Agency) will release for public comment a consultation document (attached to the submission under SWC-19-SUB-0082) on proposed changes to the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (the Framework);
- 2 **noted** that the Agency is responsible for maintaining the Framework and the Directory of Assessment Standards, and maintaining mechanisms for the recognition of learning;
- 3 **noted** that the Agency will publicly consult on the proposed changes for a period of six weeks;
- 4 **noted** that the proposed changes are intended to broaden and strengthen the Framework to ensure it remains fit for purpose, flexible and adaptive to the future needs of learners, employers, iwi and other stakeholders;
- 5 **noted** that the Agency's proposals will broaden and strengthen the Framework by:
 - 5.1 including a wider range of education products on the Framework (proposal 1);
 - 5.2 embedding transferable competencies into the Framework (proposal 2);
 - 5.3 addressing a range of long standing technical issues with the Framework (proposals 3 – 7);
 - 5.4 making the Framework easier to use and more relevant to all stakeholders (proposal 8);

6 **noted** that:

- 6.1 the proposals may result in legislative change;
- 6.2 if this is the case, the Minister of Education will report to SWC seeking approval for the legislative changes and providing information about the impact of any such changes.

Gerrard Carter
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Phil Twyford
Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Andrew Little
Hon Dr David Clark
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Tracey Martin (Chair)
Hon Peeni Henare
Jan Logie, MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Office of the Chair
Office of the Deputy Chair
Officials Committee for SWC

Hard-copy distribution:

Minister of Education



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report of the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee: Period Ended 28 June 2019

On 1 July 2019, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee for the period ended 28 June 2019:

SWC-19-MIN-0082

Review of the New Zealand Qualifications

Framework

Portfolio: Education

CONFIRMED

Redactions made as content outside scope of Minister's portfolio responsibility

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Redactions made as content outside scope of Minister's portfolio responsibility

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

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