

8 February 2019

Consultation on change to NZQF Rules

We are pleased to provide comment to the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) on proposed changes to NZQF Programme Approval and Accreditation Rules 2018, specifically Rule 18 – the English language proficiency evidence requirements for international students.

About Te Rito Maioha Early Childhood New Zealand

Te Rito Maioha Early Childhood New Zealand is a national organisation that promotes high-quality early childhood education (ECE) through initial teacher education, professional development, leadership programmes, advocacy and membership services.

Te Rito Maioha is a membership organisation. We represent early childhood education services and the teachers who provide education and care to thousands of infants, toddlers and young children. Our members are drawn from a diverse range of community-based and privately-owned education and care services, home-based services and kindergartens.

Te Rito Maioha is also one of New Zealand's top providers of initial teacher education for ECE teachers, and is recognised as a leader in bicultural teacher education. We deliver a suite of qualifications and teacher education and professional development programmes that are of interest to both domestic and international students.

General comments

We support the proposal to change the evidence requirements for international students' English language proficiency. In particular, we support the removal of the student visa decline rate from Rule 18. We consider that the changes proposed will make the application process easier and more open and transparent for both applicants and education providers. This in turn ensures the process is fairer for people wanting to study in New Zealand.

Our organisation is well set-up to adopt the revised Rule once enacted. We do not think that the changes proposed will require any significant modifications to our application processes and guidelines.

We recommend that NZQA clarify what it means for international students to have "completed their schooling" – namely, how many years of secondary school in English medium would be acceptable under this Rule?

The Teaching Council website has an extensive list of qualifications, tests or awards that they accept as evidence of [proficiency in the English language](#) for the purposes of initial teacher education and registration. Some of these may be relevant for more general study purposes too.

Submission to NZQA by 11 February 2019: gadconsultation@nzqa.govt.nz

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