

21 October 2022

Consultation on changes to NZQA rules

We are pleased to provide comment to NZQA on changes to NZQA rules.

About Te Rito Maioha Early Childhood New Zealand

Te Rito Maioha Early Childhood New Zealand (ECNZ) is an Incorporated Society of members committed to high quality early childhood education for every child. Established in 1963, the organisation is an influential leader in shaping today's early childhood sector through advocacy, policy, tertiary education qualifications and professional development programmes.

We advocate for early childhood education services and the teachers | kaiako who provide education to thousands of infants, toddlers, and children | tamariki. Our members are drawn from a diverse range of community-based, privately-owned, kindergarten and homebased early childhood education services.

Te Rito Maioha is also a registered Private Training Establishment (PTE) with the highest Category One rating for a tertiary provider. We are accredited and approved by New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) to deliver a range of undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate qualifications (levels 4-9), including specialist teacher | kaiako education, both nationally and internationally.

We are committed to achieving high-quality teaching and learning by:

- increasing teachers' | kaiako knowledge of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Aotearoa New Zealand's dual cultural heritage;
- providing access to online blended delivery of undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate tertiary education programmes leading to recognised and approved qualifications;
- promoting quality teaching and leadership through ongoing professional learning and development programmes;
- providing a range of unique resources and services to our members.

General Comments

We would like to make a submission on the following rule changes:

- Micro-credential approval and accreditation
- Skill standards
- Qualification and Micro-credential listing
- Offshore programme delivery
- Programme approval and accreditation rules
- Quality Assurance rules

Micro-credential approval and accreditation

We support the inclusion of requirements for micro-credentials on the NZQA framework. The new rules will clarify micro-credential requirements for providers.

While we agree with the criteria for micro-credential approval, we seek clarity on under what circumstances providers will need to seek approval from the relevant workforce development council. That is, can micro-credentials only be approved on the framework if endorsed by a workforce development Council? If so, what happens to those that do not fit into a workforce development Council?

Skills standards

As skill standards will eventually replace unit standards or credits (for qualifications currently on the framework in this design), we agree with the details for skills standards to be listed on the Directory of Assessment Standards.

A template for translation and mapping from unit standards or credit designed qualifications to skill standards will be useful when existing unit standards or credits are transferred as part of their regular review.

Qualification and Micro-credential listing

We agree with recording achieved micro-credentials on a learner's NZ Record of Achievement.

We note that a micro-credential, once listed on the framework, could be delivered by another provider. We understand from the NZQA information sessions that if another provider wants to deliver a micro-credential not developed by them, that the developer will be consulted before permission is granted.

We believe that this is crucial as it will help protect a developer's intellectual property. We also believe it is crucial that the micro-credential is delivered in the developer's developed micro-credential to ensure no duplication of micro-credentials or we will potentially see a proliferation of micro-credentials.

Offshore programme delivery

We are pleased with the clarification of the definition of Offshore Programme Delivery to exclude domestic learners who are living or travelling overseas.

Programme approval and accreditation rules

We support applying the programme approval and accreditation rules to work-based training. We would encourage NZQA to work with other agencies such as professional industry and sector bodies. This is because sometimes there is a disconnect between NZQA and professional bodies such as the NZ Teaching Council in relation to rules and requirements. This can cause confusion for providers e.g. the current monitoring requirements for initial teacher education providers differ between NZQA and the NZ Teaching Council. It is also suggested that any self-review approval to these bodies are one and the same to diminish duplication of time, money and resources.

Make submission to NZQA via survey by 21 October 2022

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