



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY  
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

# The New Zealand Qualifications Authority's Future State work programme for quality assurance

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## New Zealand tertiary education context

- Population of 4.5 million
- diverse
- globalised
- export-led
- Approximately 50% hold tertiary education qualification
- 17% hold Bachelor's Degree or higher
- 92,000 international students
- Diverse tertiary education institutions

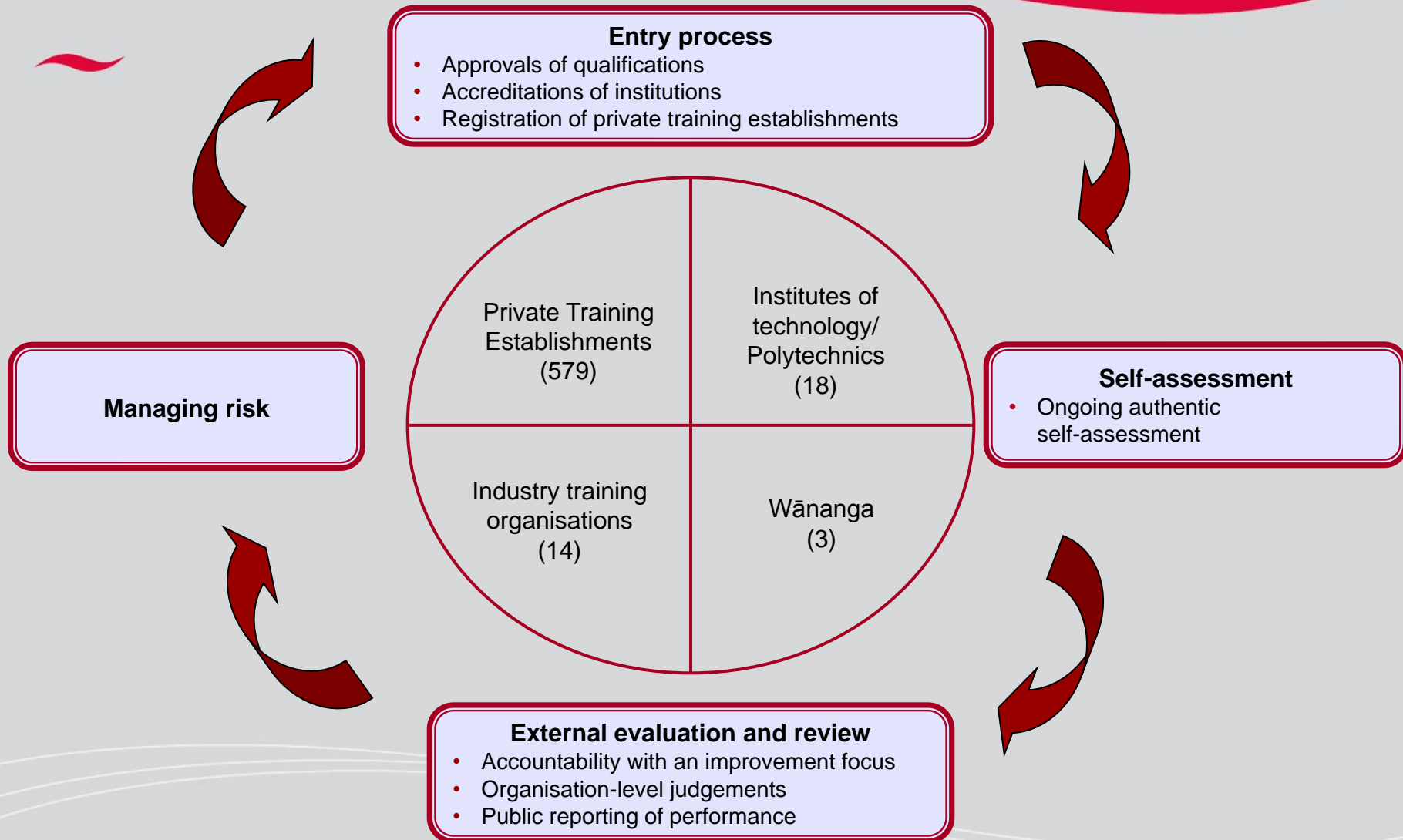


## **The New Zealand Qualifications Authority's role in tertiary education**

- Quality assuring the non-university tertiary education sector:
  - institutes of technology and polytechnics
  - wānanga (Māori institutions)
  - private training establishments
  - industry training organisations
  - government training establishments
- Ensuring institutions comply with rules established under the Education Act 1989

## **NZQA's evaluative quality assurance framework (EQAF)**

- Evaluative approach for determining quality and the outcomes of quality education
- Principle-based approach
  - High trust, high accountability
  - Dynamic concept of quality
  - Practical focus on outcomes
  - Strategic and needs-based
  - Flexible
- Introduced across non-university tertiary education sector in 2009



# The New Zealand Qualifications Framework

The **New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF)** is designed to optimise the recognition of educational achievement and its contribution to New Zealand's economic, social and cultural success.

# The New Zealand Qualifications Framework

## Qualifications on the NZQF:

- quality assured
- defined by qualification type and level
- outcome statement includes graduate profile, education and employment pathways
- allocated a credit value
- assigned to a subject classification
- indicates a qualification's status as *current*, *expiring*, or *discontinued*

## Future State Work Programme

- The New Zealand Qualification Authority (NZQA) has a Future State Strategy responding to the likely future needs of New Zealand.
- What's driving this strategy?
  - Increasing technological change offering different ways to deliver learning
  - Increasing globalisation breaking down barriers between countries and institutions
  - Increasing learner expectations for individualised service



## **NZQA's Future State programme (cont.)**

A key focus is “Quality assurance in a borderless world”. NZQA is undertaking four quality assurance projects as part of its Future State programme.

- Strengthening the Evaluative Quality Assurance Framework
- Mātauranga Māori evaluative quality assurance
- Work associated with strengthening the NZQF
- Credit recognition and transfer

## **Strengthening the Evaluative quality assurance framework**

- The project to strengthen EQAF follows an independent international review of the EQAF in 2012, which commended the framework.
- In 2013, NZQA:
  - Introduced criteria to strengthen reporting on educational performance in external evaluation and review (EER)
  - Introduced requirements for all institutions to specifically report on the achievement of both Māori and Pacific learners
  - Introduced a compliance declaration process to ensure compliance with legal and professional body requirements

## Strengthening the EQAF (cont.)

- In 2014, NZQA will continue to establish sustainable EQAF capability across NZQA and the tertiary education sector by:
  - Strengthening the pool of evaluators to ensure EER continues to combine evaluation capability and strong sector knowledge
  - Introducing ‘associate’ evaluators with sector expertise and experience
- In to 2015, NZQA will continue to strengthen its role to influence performance using analysis of EER information

## **Mātauranga Māori**

- Māori are indigenous people of New Zealand
- Mātauranga Māori is a body of knowledge specific to Māori people
- NZQA has an explicit focus on supporting Māori educational achievement
- New Zealand recognises indigenous knowledge on the NZQF

## Mātauranga Māori evaluative quality assurance (MM EQA)

- Jointly developed with Māori
- Partnership to maintain the integrity of both mātauranga Māori and evaluative quality assurance
- Core principle - what is of value to Māori?
- Mātauranga Māori outcomes, philosophy, and processes are recognised on their merits
- Mātauranga Māori specific evaluation questions and criteria
- MM EQA quality mark (pictured) awarded to those qualifications achieving excellent or outstanding results



## Strengthening the New Zealand qualifications system

- In 2008-9, an NZQA-led targeted review found the number of quality-assured qualifications had grown out of proportion with the needs of the country.
- In response, a package of changes to the qualifications system was agreed, covering three broad areas:
  - A single unified New Zealand Qualifications Framework
  - Developing new design rules for qualifications to address employer and societal needs
  - Introducing a strengthened approval process for new qualifications and a regular review of all qualifications to ensure consistency of all programmes that lead to the same qualification.

## Strengthening the New Zealand qualifications system (cont.)

The NZQF now has:

- A more streamlined and simplified qualifications system – qualifications are useful and relevant
  - Stronger emphasis on flexible pathways to qualifications
  - Fewer qualifications (reduced by over 60%)
  - Qualifications focused on learner outcomes
  - Requirements for qualification developers to engage with industry and employers to develop qualifications
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- An independent analysis concluded that it now much better meets the needs of learners than in 2009

## Credit recognition and transfer

- Technology is leading to changing learner demands and institutions are changing in response
- NZQA is working with sector experts to embrace these opportunities, specifically seeking their views on the role of MOOCs (Massive, Open, Online Courses) in the New Zealand tertiary education system
- NZQA is undertaking a long-term project to understand likely future quality assurance needs for credit recognition and transfer and recognition of prior learning



## Summary

- The Future State work programme is ensuring NZQA keeps pace with rapid change
- The EQAF project is enhancing NZQA's ground-breaking quality assurance processes
- The MM EQA ensures quality assurance of mātauranga Māori is driven from an authentic Māori worldview
- NZQA is continuing to strengthen the NZQF to create a simpler vocational education and training system that better meet the needs of learners and communities

## **Contact details**

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