

NEW QUALITY ASSURANCE INCENTIVES AND SANCTIONS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- 1. What is the start date?**
April 2011.
- 2. How is this connected with the Targeted Review changes?**
Any changes to qualification and programme applications as a result of the Targeted Review will not be affected by the new incentives and sanctions.
- 3. Aren't there more sanctions than incentives?**
No, there are equal numbers of each. Each of the six mechanisms is either an incentive or a sanction depending on the provider's category e.g. Provider Category 1 will enjoy much faster turnaround of their applications for programme approval and accreditation than the other categories.
- 4. What does "vary external scrutiny" really mean for us? What are the programme approval and accreditation rules?**
For PTEs, GTEs and wānanga in Category 1 less, and different, documentation will be required, with more trust placed on the provider's internal quality assurance processes.
- 5. Does reduced external scrutiny for programme approvals in Provider Category 1 apply to degree programmes?**
This incentive is limited to sub-degree programmes.
- 6. Does reduced external scrutiny for consents to assess in Provider Category 1 apply to consents that involve ITOs?**
No, reduced external scrutiny applies only to those consents that directly involve NZQA. For example, site visits will no longer be required for Provider Category 1.
- 7. How much will we save?**
The savings for Provider Category 1 will vary according to the individual circumstances of providers. For example reduced financial attestation requirements for PTEs will save them around \$5,000 - \$7,000 per year.

8. What are the risks of giving high performers more autonomy?

NZQA has carefully reviewed Provider Category 1 and found no providers that are the subject of quality concerns. If a provider were subsequently found to be non-compliant, NZQA would respond by moving them into a more appropriate category.

9. What happens if you have not had an EER yet?

For providers that have not had an EER yet, the quality assurance processes will not change.

10. Is the system retrospective? Will it apply to the old audit cycles?

No, NZQA will not apply the categories on the basis of former audit results. Every provider will be integrated into the new categories as they have an EER. The remaining ones will have to wait for their EER results.

11. When will new programme application forms and templates be available for sector use?

These are currently being designed and trialled and will be ready for use in April 2011.