



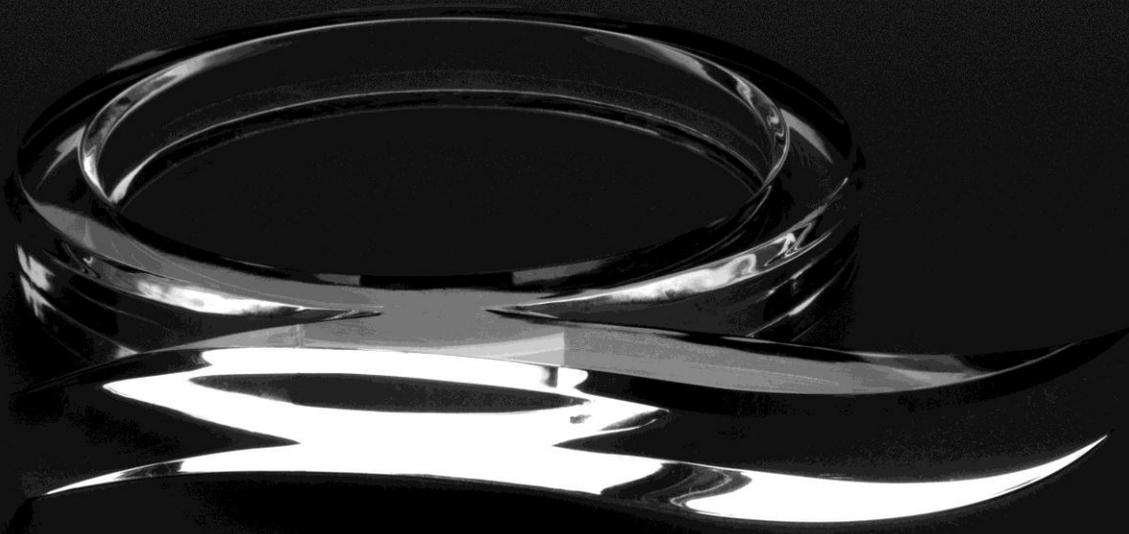
NEW ZEALAND **QUALIFICATIONS** AUTHORITY  
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

**QUALIFY FOR THE FUTURE WORLD**  
KIA NOHO TAKATŪ KI TŌ ĀMUA AO!

Discussion paper

# Expanding the Record of Achievement

March 2015



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**New Zealand Qualifications Authority  
125 The Terrace  
PO Box 160  
WELLINGTON**

# Expanding the Record of Achievement

## *Qualify for the future world*

### Introduction

New Zealanders are increasingly mobile. When moving to a new job or to further learning, in New Zealand or overseas, they want to see their skills and qualifications quickly and easily recognised. This means the qualifications they gain need to be portable and transferable.

#### **Meeting the needs of students and the education sector**

Students may gain multiple qualifications during their lifetime. They are also likely to want formal recognition for all of their learning, even for learning occurring outside of NZQA's quality assurance system.

At present, students may have to repeat learning which leads to a loss of time and unnecessary costs because they cannot easily demonstrate appropriate recognition of their previous study or learning.

Currently the Record of Achievement covers only qualifications based on assessment standards. Students can view their Record of Achievement online, while the official record is paper-based, and they are increasingly asking NZQA for electronic transcripts for use in e-CVs and other online applications.

The Record of Achievement shows all standards-based qualifications and assessment standards that a person has ever achieved. Tertiary education organisations, including private training establishments, institutes of technology and polytechnics, and industry training organisations are asking NZQA to expand the Record of Achievement to also include the new New Zealand qualifications that may or may not be standards-based.

#### **A 'Universal' Record of Achievement is now one step closer to becoming a reality**

Sector-wide information projects involving NZQA, the Tertiary Education Commission and the Ministry of Education will provide easier access to a range of data. This creates an opportunity to design and deliver a 'Universal' Record of Achievement that best suits the needs of the students, the education sector and employers.

NZQA is committed to adopting a student-focused and client-centric approach, therefore feedback is critical to the development of this project. This discussion paper aims to:

- inform stakeholders about the 'Universal' Record of Achievement project
- stimulate discussion and get feedback from stakeholders on the benefits and challenges of developing this record, and suggested action or strategies.

### The context of a 'Universal' Record of Achievement

NZQA maintains standards-based results information for students in a central database, providing students with:

- a Record of Achievement (previously called the Record of Learning): an official transcript of all standards-based qualifications and assessment standards that a person has ever achieved
- awards including University Entrance, New Zealand Scholarship and Vocational Pathways
- access to results for all assessed standards the student entered in the previous year
- a School Results Summary: a transcript of entries and results a person has gained for both internally and externally assessed standards while at senior secondary school.

## **Collaboration between agencies provides the conditions for a 'Universal' Record of Achievement**

The Ministry of Education, the Tertiary Education Commission and NZQA are currently working together to develop and optimise the collection, management, delivery and use of education data.

The collaboration between agencies and the Ministry of Education will provide access to data that could enable an automated recording of all NZQF qualifications and related components on the 'Universal' Record of Achievement.

This is a significant opportunity to improve how student achievement information is presented, what information can be displayed, how students could tailor their results to specific audiences, and determine who can access their achievement data.

### **Proposed scope of the project**

NZQA proposes to expand the Record of Achievement into a 'Universal' Record of Achievement so it is an accessible, accurate, comprehensive and authoritative record of a student's qualifications and other quality assured learning that is recognised in New Zealand.

Engagement with students (secondary and tertiary), the education sector and employers will:

- seek to confirm the benefits of the 'Universal' Record of Achievement
- discuss and address any privacy issues
- consider possible uses to inform technology needs and the format and design of the 'Universal' Record of Achievement.

### **Developing the 'Universal' Record of Achievement in three phases**

NZQA is considering using a three-phase approach to develop the 'Universal' Record of Achievement:

- Phase 1 – Record of New Zealand certificates and diplomas at Levels 1 to 6
- Phase 2 – Record of all NZQF Levels 1 to 10 qualifications (and possibly components)
- Phase 3 – 'Universal' Record of Achievement.

## **The benefits of the 'Universal' Record of Achievement**

### **For students**

The 'Universal' Record of Achievement would:

- Be a personalised and centralised record of all their learning. As a formative, evolving, accessible document, it could enhance their employability, by including a much wider range of achievements in an official document.
- Provide a tangible reminder of their achievements and skills acquired during their years of learning and allow them to identify any gaps in their education.
- Save unnecessary costs and additional learning when they can demonstrate appropriate recognition of their previous study or learning.
- Be available in Te Reo Māori.

### **For education organisations**

The 'Universal' Record of Achievement would:

- Be an accurate record of student achievement.
- Visibly record credit recognition and transfer and recognition of prior learning arrangements.
- Ensure students' qualification records are kept even when education organisations close.
- Refer users to each education organisation for more detailed information on student achievement (e.g. transcript).

## **For employers**

The 'Universal' Record of Achievement would:

- Be a source of accessible information and confirm students have the qualifications employers are looking for.
- Underpin continued learning and professional development (i.e. employers and employees could use the information to plan the employee's future growth).

## **Challenges**

Before the 'Universal' Record of Achievement can become a reality, several challenges must be overcome.

### **Populating the 'Universal' Record of Achievement**

Collecting all qualifications and learning completions data is critical to achieving the benefits of the 'Universal' Record of Achievement.

NZQA is working to find the best solution to ensure the completeness of the data while accommodating the needs of education organisations and the requirements of relevant agencies.

### **Finding a way to transition to the 'Universal' Record of Achievement**

The education sector has expressed the need to record students' achievement of New Zealand certificates and diplomas within the shortest possible time. The automated process could be completed in 2016. NZQA would therefore need to find an interim process to record New Zealand qualifications completions as soon as possible. NZQA is thinking about:

- asking tertiary education organisations with graduates of New Zealand qualifications to voluntarily report completions directly to NZQA or
- extracting information from existing data returns and asking education organisations to verify the information to be recorded on student's 'Universal' Record of Achievement.

## **Next steps**

### **Engaging with students and employers**

NZQA will engage with secondary and tertiary students and use that feedback to help develop a 'Universal' Record of Achievement that suits their needs, present and future. NZQA will also talk with employers to get their views on this project.

### **Engaging with the education sector**

NZQA would like to get your feedback on the benefits and challenges of developing a 'Universal' Record of Achievement.

NZQA would also like your views on the mechanisms used to record New Zealand qualifications until the process is automated.

**Please email your feedback to [NZQFquestions@nzqa.govt.nz](mailto:NZQFquestions@nzqa.govt.nz) by 28 April 2015.**