



Briefing for the Incoming Ministers of Education and Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment

October 2014

NZQA

NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

This document has been proactively released. Redactions made to the document have been made consistent with provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

PART A: NZQA's Role and Context

- The role of NZQA is to ensure that New Zealand qualifications are regarded as credible and robust, nationally and internationally. Learners from all ages and stages, whānau, teachers, educators, iwi, industry - all depend on NZQA to support their aims through:
 - managing and improving the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF)¹
 - administering the secondary school assessment system
 - providing independent quality assurance of tertiary education providers
 - engaging internationally to support people coming from and going overseas.
- Our education system exists in an increasingly global and digital world that gives us opportunities and challenges. There is increasing evidence that continuous access to a digital device when properly implemented in technologically enabled classrooms by well-prepared and well-led teachers has a positive impact on educational outcomes.
- Cross-border, digital education and competition for international students is increasing world-wide. More nations are pursuing the revenue and reputational benefits of education – for example research collaboration, trade opportunities, skilled migrants and diplomatic advantages for international education.
- NZQA is an \$80 million Crown entity governed by an independent ministerial-appointed board. Funding is nearly equally split between Crown revenue and third party fees. Appendix 1 lists the contact details of key NZQA personnel. Other documents included with this briefing describe NZQA's functions, responsibilities, strategies and performance.

PART B: NZQA's Strategic Priorities

- NZQA's strategic objective and priorities can be summarised as follows (See also Part C for greater detail on this):



¹ <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/studying-in-new-zealand/nzqf/>

1. Increasingly moving NZQA's services to being online, accessible at any time and from anywhere

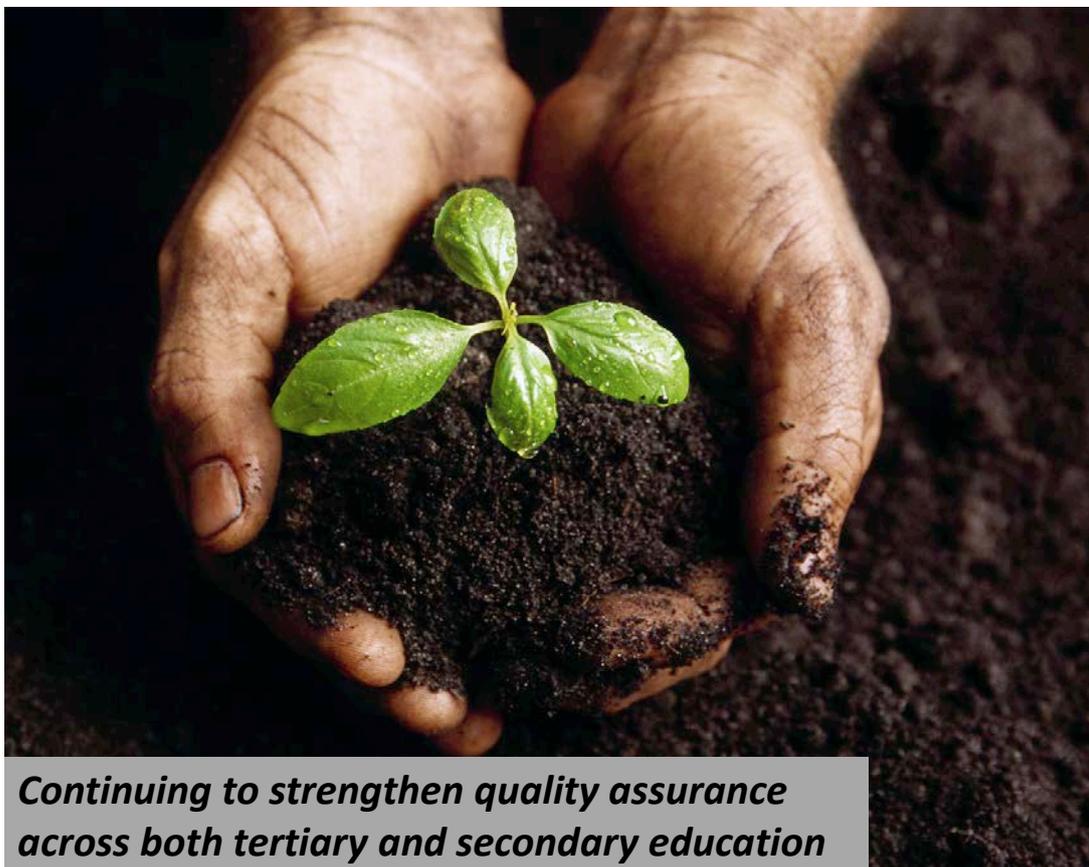
- NZQA's current model is working effectively. The global environment is however becoming increasingly borderless and digital and the requirements of learners, employers, iwi, industry and our international partners are increasing exponentially.
- NZQA is working closely (in particular through its Future State programme) with education partners to change the way NZQA delivers its business and services. Key focus areas being progressed and tested are:
 - the Electronic Mathematics Common Assessment Task (e-MCAT)
 - Onscreen Marking
 - Computer based examinations
 - Special Assessment Conditions (SAC)
 - Online Moderation
 - Digital Return to Candidates.
- NZQA partnered with New Zealand Post In February 2014 to trial providing NZ Scholarship students digital access to their marked examination scripts. The trial was a success with 2,640 candidates registered and able to access 4,668 documents.



Increasingly moving NZQA's services to being online, accessible at any time and from anywhere

2. Continuing to strengthen quality assurance across both tertiary and secondary education

- A qualifications framework enables a nation to describe its quality-assured qualifications. Monitoring the delivery of those qualifications and the quality of education organisations are important factors in ensuring educational quality.
- Innovations in education delivery and assessment create changing needs for quality assurance. NZQA is working on several initiatives to respond to these changing needs and to continue to maintain the reputation of New Zealand as a high quality education destination. These include:
 - The Targeted Review of Qualifications (TRoQ) at levels 1–6 on the NZQF. This ongoing programme is focused on ensuring that the New Zealand qualifications system is streamlined, coherent and easily understood by current and future learners, employers and other stakeholders
 - NZQA’s Evaluative Quality Assurance Framework (EQAF) drives improvements in educational quality and performance across the tertiary education sector. A significant focus for NZQA this year has been a project to enhance and strengthen the EQAF. This project is part of NZQA’s Future State strategy work stream *Quality assurance in a borderless world*. Mātauranga Māori Evaluative Quality Assurance (MM EQA) was launched in 2012. It is the quality assurance approach applied by NZQA to reach evaluative decisions and conclusions regarding those qualifications and programmes considered uniquely and distinctly mātauranga Māori, and
 - NZQA is working on a project to develop a Universal Record of Achievement (UROA). The UROA will be an authoritative record of all a learner’s qualifications.



Continuing to strengthen quality assurance across both tertiary and secondary education

3. *Deepening the global reach of the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF)*

- A significant goal of the Government's Business Growth Agenda is to help the education industry double the value of international education by 2025. NZQA contributes to this by:
 - continued use of the NZQF as a basis for its qualifications recognition work internationally
 - an international work programme that promotes recognition of New Zealand's quality assured qualifications with key education partners
 - referencing of the NZQF to other national qualifications frameworks and qualifications systems
 - working with the Ministry of Education to use curriculum-to-curriculum referencing for recognition work with countries that have not yet implemented a national qualifications framework (NQF) or have not included their secondary qualifications on an NQF
 - administration of the Code of Practice for International Students to support education providers in their responsibility to ensure international students in New Zealand are well informed, properly cared for and safe.



4. Continuing to contribute to improvements in education system performance by engaging with families and communities (in particular Māori and Pasifika)

- NZQA is continuing to contribute to improvements in education system performance by engaging with families and communities (in particular Māori and Pasifika) regarding how to make National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) work for their child. NZQA makes this contribution through the Future State Programme, *Te Rautaki Māori* and *Pasifika* strategies which include initiatives such as *NCEA and the Whanau* and *NCEA ma le Pasifika*.
- In May 2014 NZQA launched a new mobile App called the *NCEA Guide*. This App enables parents and whānau to access simple content about how NCEA works and how they can support family members studying for NCEA. Content can be viewed in English and Te Reo Māori, and has links to relevant pages on NZQA's website.



Continuing to contribute to improvements in education system performance by engaging with families and communities (in particular Māori and Pasifika).

PART C: NZQA's CONTRIBUTION TO NEW ZEALAND'S ECONOMIC PROSPERITY IN A BORDERLESS DIGITAL WORLD

NZQA's contribution to New Zealand's economic prosperity in a borderless digital world



Today's students are digital natives and global citizens. They experience the world as highly connected, instantaneous, and a place where they can shape their own content. Education experiences need to build on and enhance digital skills.

Individual social inequalities can be reduced. A young woman under 20 with a child is expected to spend an average of 20 years on welfare. Her employment chances are stronger if she has a qualification, and the opportunity to build 21st century skills. Online courses enable learners to 'drop back' into learning.

Teacher capability, curriculum and pedagogy must be fit for a borderless and digital world.

Skills developed and qualifications offered will reflect the current and future needs of employers and society.

Regardless of social background, digital technology (interactive, personalised, accessible) enhances learning opportunities and enables students to acquire problem-solving and collaboration skills needed by employers. Learning can be mobile and portable.

Learning institutions will leverage digital gateways such as Network for Learning's POND and ultra-fast broadband.

More learners have qualifications and standards that New Zealand needs for future workforce skills, increasing individual success and economic competitiveness.

New Zealand's workforce has 21st century skills (critical thinking, research, higher order thinking) essential to raising productivity.

Education can add value to New Zealand's domestic and export industries through supporting skill development, innovation, research and productivity.

In a digitised world, New Zealand's size and geographic isolation become opportunities to leverage agility and build on comparative economic advantages.

International education will continue to be a significant contributor to New Zealand's economy.

NZQA'S CONTRIBUTION



The Economist (7 June 2014) reported on the advantages of integrating technology into teaching; assisting children's progress, regardless of social background. They noted the latest technology promises to improve teaching methods and give learners personalised education.

Digital assessment will allow learners to be assessed with formats they already 'live and breathe'. Assessment as learning becomes real when the assessment can be taken at any time and is fit for purpose. Simulation based assessments enhance testing of knowledge for sought after subjects (eg, Science, Engineering).



Electronic management of assessment processes (marking, moderation, return to candidate) and examinations will allow for efficiencies and better service delivery.

The system is freed up to focus on ways of improving assessment of teaching and learning.



NZQA's world class qualifications, assessment and quality assurance processes continue to adapt to the need for economic and societal relevance.



The New Zealand Qualifications Framework is recognised overseas through referencing/equivalence arrangements and the quality of education delivery in New Zealand is further enhanced. NZ qualifications are portable in a global marketplace.

PART D: THE NEXT 90 DAYS

- NCEA examinations commence in November 2014 and Ministers' offices will be kept informed of key dates and developments.
- NZQA is trialling new processes and technology projects including the:
 - digital return to candidate of examination papers for New Zealand Scholarship students
 - development of computer based assessment, starting with the Electronic Mathematics Common Assessment Task
 - launch of a reader/writer digital tool as a Special Assessment Condition for NCEA examinations into the future.
- NZQA is drawing on the collective knowledge and expertise within the education community to understand what works and what is possible in the digital space and will keep Ministers fully briefed as opportunities and learnings develop.
- NZQA will continue to collaborate with the employers, the education sector and other government agencies to ensure that evaluative quality assurance can respond to education delivery and assessment changes.
- NZQA will work with stakeholders on its contribution to the new Rate My Qualification Survey to employers
- An independent review of the effectiveness of NZQA's implementation of its 2007 NCEA enhancements is being conducted this year and will be reported to Ministers in December 2014.

Appendix 1: NZQA Contact List

Name	Position	DDI	E-mail
Karen Poutasi	Chief Executive Officer	04 463 3026	karen.poutasi@nzqa.govt.nz
Jane von Dadelszen	Deputy Chief Executive Quality Assurance	04 463 3034	jane.vondadelszen@nzqa.govt.nz
Richard Thornton	Deputy Chief Executive Assessment	04 463 4273	richard.thornton@nzqa.govt.nz
Grant Klinkum	Deputy Chief Executive Strategic & Corporate	04 463 4364	grant.klinkum@nzqa.govt.nz
Daryn Bean	Deputy Chief Executive Māori	04 463 4351	daryn.bean@nzqa.govt.nz
Sue Suckling (contact through Ciaran Hyslop Board Secretary)	Board Chair Board Secretary	04 463 3148	ciaran.hyslop@nzqa.govt.nz