



# **National Qualifications Framework Levels 2–3, 2007**

## **Legal Studies**

### **National Moderator's Report**

## General Guidance for Assessors of Achievement and Unit Standards

The purpose of external moderation is to provide reassurance that assessor judgments are at the national standard and are made on the basis of assessment materials that are fair and valid.

All assessment materials are expected to:

- give the learner the opportunity to meet the requirements of the standard
- have an assessment schedule that gives evidence of appropriate learner responses and clear judgments at all levels.

The Ministry of Education contracted subject experts to write assessment resources for achievement standards. These are not pre-moderated. The intention is that they are modified to suit teaching programmes and learner needs. They do not provide “rules” but suggest different ways of assessing to the nationally registered standard.

### General Overall Comment

The majority of teachers use commercial materials to assess the Legal Studies unit standards and in general, the quality of these assessments and schedules is high. However providers should note that these are not pre-moderated and they should check their accuracy and validity against the standards before use. In particular they need to ensure that all performance criteria and related range statements are assessed in the tasks. Similarly, the assessment schedules and judgement statements should be checked for content accuracy, and assessors need to ensure adequate examples of expected student evidence are written so they can make accurate and consistent judgments on the evidence learners produce.

Providers also need to make sure that the conditions they set for the assessment are appropriate to the type of assessment. An open book activity is not considered appropriate for mainly recall type answers. Open book assessments can be used but are more appropriate where students have to research and/or apply knowledge to new situations.

### SPECIFIC STANDARDS

As there was a major review of the Legal Studies unit standards over 2006 and 2007 which affected all standards for use in 2008 there will be no comment on any individual standards moderated in 2007. As a result of the review the content of the unit standards has been updated to meet current law. Interpretation of the wording of the standards has also been clarified.

The new versions of these standards are now available on the NZQA website:

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/index.html>

#### **Level two standards:**

8543 *Describe the role of law and its relationship with New Zealand society* Version 3

8544 *Describe how laws are made and changed in New Zealand* Version 3

8545 *Describe factors contributing to, and consequences of, crime* Version 3

8546 *Describe the New Zealand judicial system* Version 3

8547 *Describe the role, and operation of the Youth Justice System* Version 3

8551 *Describe the application of New Zealand law to marriage, civil union, and de-facto relationships* Version 3

- 8552 *Describe legal consequences and protections relating to domestic violence and child abuse* Version 3
- 8554 *Describe elements and remedies for breach of a contract* Version 3
- 8555 *Describe the purpose and application of consumer law* Version 2
- 10337 *Describe the legal rights and personal responsibilities of secondary school students* Version 3
- 10338 *Describe and compare methods of dispute resolution in the legal system* Version 2
- 10339 *Describe causes and apply resolution processes to neighbourhood disputes (this unit standard is expiring and no longer available)*
- 10340 *Describe the application of law to discrimination* Version 4
- 10342 *Describe the application of law to wills and intestacy* Version 3
- 10343 *Describe the legal consequences of living in rented accommodation (this unit standard is expiring and no longer available)*
- 10346 *Demonstrate knowledge of principles and operation of law in relation to the environment* Version 2
- 10348 *Describe the changing status of women in the law in New Zealand (this unit standard is expiring and no longer available)*

### **Level three standards**

- 10341 *Describe and evaluate the legal relationship between the state and the individual* Version 3
- 10344 *Describe and evaluate a law reform* Version 3
- 10347 *Demonstrate knowledge of the development of the New Zealand legal system* Version 3
- 10349 *Describe and evaluate criminal and civil court processes, and systems of justice* Version 3
- 10351 *Describe and evaluate the New Zealand criminal justice system* Version 3
- 10352 *Describe and evaluate the application of law to technological change (this unit standard is expiring and no longer available)*

### **Note:**

#### **Expiring standards**

If significant changes need to be made to a standard to bring it up-to-date, new standards are registered that replace the ones that have been superseded. The new standards have new ID numbers and the replaced standards are designated *expiring*. Once these standards have expired, they are removed from the NZQA website.

#### **Transition arrangements**

NZQA policy when standards are reviewed is that moderators continue to accept the earlier version during the year following the review. Student results will be accepted for both versions.