

New Zealand Advisory Group (NZAG)

Thursday 7 April 2016 – meeting notes

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) International Future State work programme, the referencing process and the progress of recognition projects.

The NZAG advises NZQA on current and future recognition projects. The group enables NZQA to capture the views of the main stakeholder groups and government agencies that have a direct, or indirect, interest in this work. Russell Wood, Deputy Chief Executive, Strategic and Corporate, NZQA, is the new Chair of the NZAG. He takes over from Grant Klinkum, who has taken up a new role within NZQA.

Current recognition projects

- **New Zealand and Hong Kong cooperation**

NZQA provided an update on the project to reference the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF) and the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF) and shared the draft comparison of levels 7, 9 and 10 of the NZQF. NZAG members agreed with the comparison. The next video-conference with the Hong Kong Project Team is in August 2016.

- **Recognition of New Zealand Bachelor's Degrees by Indonesia**

NZQA provided an update on the project to compare New Zealand and Indonesian Bachelor's Degrees. A Terms of Reference has been signed and the project plan has been agreed but the project is progressing slowly. We are waiting for a confirmed date for the Indonesia-New Zealand Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting proposed for 2016, which would provide an opportunity to present the findings of the project.

- **New Zealand page on the Chinese JSJ Study Abroad website**

New Zealand education institutions that meet criteria determined by the Chinese authorities are eligible to be listed on the Chinese Ministry of Education's Jiaoyu Shewai Jianguan Xinxiwang (JSJ) Study Abroad Study Abroad website. The list is reviewed by NZQA at regular intervals to determine if there have been any changes to the institutions currently on the list, and whether any new providers could be added. NZQA is currently waiting to receive the updated criteria, and will be in contact with NZAG members and relevant institutions to collate the education institution information.

- **China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Center (CDGDC) and NZQA joint project**

NZQA provided a verbal update on the CDGDC-NZQA joint project. The comparative analysis of New Zealand and Chinese Bachelor's Degrees is progressing quickly following a video-conference on 26 January 2016. Mike Coles has been proposed as the international expert for the project.

- **New Zealand education providers list on the German Anabin website**

A list of New Zealand Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics (ITPs) is now on the German Anabin website. The listing on the website will enable German universities of applied sciences to collaborate with New Zealand ITPs. In December 2015, the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (Kultusministerkonferenz or KMK) of the German states advised they would be willing to consider including additional education institutions if they meet their criteria. NZQA is compiling a list of degree granting Private Training Establishments (PTEs) and Wānanga for possible inclusion.

Other business

- **NZAG Terms of Reference Review**

The Terms of Reference of the NZAG were reviewed. The issues discussed included the size and purpose of the group, and the frequency of communication with members. The number of meetings per year has been decreased from four meetings to three, as NZQA's established projects are coming to an end and we begin exploratory phases with new countries. The number of meetings may increase in 2017, depending on the number of new projects we commence. Please provide your feedback on the role, structure or membership of the NZAG, to Dolly Seow-Ganesan, Senior Policy Analyst, NZQA (dolly.seow-ganesan@nzqa.govt.nz) by 31 May 2016.

- **Commercial Activities**

NZQA updated the NZAG on NZQA's commercial activities and sought feedback on the type of activities that could be undertaken as part of a commercialisation work stream, and the possible role, if any, of the NZAG. If there is any feedback, please email Dolly Seow-Ganesan, Senior Policy Analyst, NZQA (dolly.seow-ganesan@nzqa.govt.nz) by 31 May 2016.

- **Expanding the Global Reach of the NZQF**

NZQA is exploring qualification recognition opportunities in Brazil, Chile, Colombia and the United States. In April 2016, Karen Chalmers, Director, International and Policy, NZQA, travelled South America to explore interest in qualifications recognition with Brazil, Chile and Colombia.

An infographic explaining the benefits of NZQA's international work has been developed in response to feedback at the November 2015 NZAG meeting. The draft infographic was presented to the NZAG. The response to the infographic was positive, with a few comments about removing technical language and inserting next steps for the sector. Feedback from the meeting will be taken into account before the final version is released.