

**Qualification Title:** New Zealand Certificate in Aquatics (Level 3) with strands in Pool Lifeguard, Swim and Water Safety Teacher, and Aquafitness Instructor

**Qualification number:** 3503

**Date of review:** 17 March 2021

This report refers to graduates awarded this qualification prior to: **31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

**Final decision on consistency of the qualification: National consistency is confirmed**

### Threshold

The threshold to determine sufficiency with the graduate profile was determined as evidence of graduates having the knowledge and skills to operate using safe practices while under limited supervision in a water safety environment.

Specifically, all graduates will be able to:

- maintain safety and apply aquatic supervision techniques to ensure a safe and enjoyable aquatic experience for customers;
- take responsibility for own professional conduct to meet organisational policies and procedures while working in an aquatic facility;
- educate customers and promote facility products and services to enhance customer experiences in an aquatic environment.

Graduates of the Pool Lifeguard strand will also be able to:

- apply aquatic supervision techniques as a pool lifeguard in an aquatic facility to reduce the risk of casualty for user groups and during aquatic activities;
- recognise a major emergency and use emergency response procedures and rescue techniques as part of a team during a major emergency.

Graduates of the Swim and Water Safety Teacher strand will also be able to:

- apply knowledge of water confidence, water safety, swimming strokes and biomechanics of movement in the water to teach swimming and water safety;
- teach swimmers water safety, survival skills, swimming progressions and techniques to develop safety awareness in aquatic environments;
- create and maintain a supportive learning environment to build swimmer confidence when teaching swimming and water safety.

The agreed threshold statement is essentially identical to the Graduate Profile Outcome (GPO) statements for the two strands.

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### Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

The following education organisations have been found to have sufficient evidence.

MOE Number	Education Organisation	Final rating
8129	Skills Active Aotearoa Limited	Sufficient

### Introduction

This 40-credit, Level 3 qualification is the required for people with safety responsibilities in the aquatics industry. All graduates completing this qualification are registered on the New Zealand Register of Recreation Professionals.

The qualification has three strands. The Aquafitness Instructor Strand has not had any graduates to date, so this strand was not included in this review.

In the period under consideration (2017 - 2020) there have been 1187 graduates through Skills Active Aotearoa. Forty per cent of graduates completed the Pool Lifeguard strand and sixty per cent completed the Swim Teacher Strand. All graduates of the Pool Lifeguard strand completed the Skills Active programme of industry training, while fifty-five per cent of Swim Teacher Strand graduates completed programmes offered by other organisations, the majority of whom (379 graduates) completed the Swimming New Zealand programme (now discontinued).

A review of this qualification is presently underway and is expected to be completed mid-year.

### Evidence

The education organisation provided a range of evidence to demonstrate that their graduates met the graduate profile outcomes.

The criteria used to judge the evaluation question were:

- The nature, quality and integrity of the evidence presented by the education organisation
- How well the organisation has analysed, interpreted and validated the evidence, and used the understanding gained to achieve actual or improved consistency
- The extent to which the education organisation can reasonably justify and validate claims and statements relating to the consistency of graduate outcomes, including in relation to other providers of programmes leading to the qualification.

### **How well does the self-assessment and supporting evidence provided by the education organisation demonstrate that its graduates match the graduate outcomes at the appropriate threshold?**

The education organisation provided a range of evidence to demonstrate that its graduates met the graduate profile outcomes.

Evidence included: programme mapping against the graduate profile outcomes, examples of moderation practice, graduate surveys and formal and informal employer feedback.

The provider was able to demonstrate clearly how the unit standards used to assess programmes of study related to the graduate profile. Particular attention is paid to achieving consistency of assessment through systematic moderation processes. Evidence from graduate surveys was representative of both strands and highly supportive of the consistency of graduate outcomes. Gaining the qualification is a well-established component of safe

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practice in aquatic facilities and there is very clear evidence of a highly functional partnership between the TITO and employers.

Overall, the self-assessment and supporting evidence supplied, by the organisation found sufficient, demonstrates that their graduates meet the graduate outcomes at the determined threshold.

**Special Focus** (includes special focus on a strand or outcome)

Strands include Pool Lifeguard; Swim and Water Safety Teacher.

Particular attention was paid to evidence for consistency within the relevant strand and also to how consistency was assured through providers using benchmarked programmes.

### **Examples of good practice**

The following evidence of good practice were noted:

- Comprehensive mapping of the programme against the graduate profile outcomes
- Comprehensive peer moderation processes fostering continuous improvement in assessment
- Strong partnership relationships with industry operating at several levels.

### **Issues and concerns**

There are no issues or concerns.

### **Recommendations to Qualification Developer**

As noted above, the qualification is currently under review and is due to the wider sector for consultation shortly. Feedback to date suggests that apart from referencing changes to legislation and new industry guidelines for best practice, the qualification requires little amendment. This consistency review (for the two strands under consideration) would support the view that the qualification is highly valued by the industry and fit for purpose.

Possibly the education pathway statement could be expanded. It is encouraging to note that 28% of graduates responding to the survey have completed further qualifications with Skills Active Aotearoa. Interestingly, however, less than a quarter of these graduates proceed to qualifications currently identified as educational pathways for this certificate. Completing the NZ Certificate in Aquatics (Level 3), would appear to be a good stepping-stone to further study in a significantly wider range of options. Feedback indicates that many employers are actively encouraging graduates of this qualification to develop leadership skills through further study.