

Qualification Title: New Zealand Diploma in Health Science (Level 5)

Qualification number: 3150

Date of review: 29 October 2019

This report refers to graduates awarded this qualification prior to: **31 December 2018**

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 providing advice, under broad supervision, applying current scientific knowledge of New Zealand health trends, nutrition and the human body across the lifespan, in a culturally safe manner to help people maintain physical wellbeing and prevent lifestyle related diseases.

Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

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

Education Organisation	Final rating
Naturopathic College of NZ	Sufficient

Introduction

The purpose of this Level 5, 120 credit Diploma qualification is to provide the community with advisors who can apply scientific knowledge of the human body to assist people with the prevention of lifestyle based health issues. Graduates working under supervision will be able to contribute to wellbeing by advocating for good nutrition and healthy lifestyle choices based on current health science and wellness trends. They are able to work as retail workers, nutrition and lifestyle coaches, and health and nutrition advisors.

Graduates will be able to undertake higher education in the areas of nutrition, health-related disciplines, health science, as well as complementary and natural medicine. This qualification leads to the New Zealand Diploma in Nutrition (Level 6) [Ref: 3511].

The qualification developer for this qualification The Naturopathic College of NZ (owned by Cornerstone Education Limited, now Aspire2). They developed the qualification in consultation with industry stakeholders and interested education organisations, and it was listed on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework in August 2017. The review of this qualification is due to be conducted in 2021.

There are two education organisations with approved programmes that lead to the award of this qualification. The Naturopathic College is the only organisation with graduates (84) during the reporting period for this Consistency Review.

The Consistency Review meeting was attended by two representatives from the Naturopathic College, one presenting their evidence, and the other as the Qualification Developer. There

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were three observers in attendance, two from the Naturopathic College, and the other from Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology.

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.

The qualification includes the general condition for programmes, that the programme should be in alignment with the Treaty of Waitangi in the provision of culturally safe health advice. The education organisation provided the Māori model of health used in the programme as evidence of how this condition was being met.

Evidence provided for the review included how the programme was designed to ensure learning outcomes were mapped to the graduate profile outcomes. Internal and external moderation processes were described and samples of moderation reports were also provided.

External evidence included graduate feedback collected via an on-line survey. The survey included a range of questions relating to the graduate's quality of their work, their capability, efficiency, confidence and ability to contribute at work, as well as whether they had applied the graduate profile outcomes. Graduate's further enrolments in the higher level Diploma were provided from the organisations database, and information about destinations of the survey responders was included.

An employer survey seeking feedback on the graduate's abilities to demonstrate the graduate profile outcomes in the workplace was administered and results reported.

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 presented a range of evidence from internal and external sources. This evidence was generally well analysed and interpreted, and used to justify claims that graduates met the graduate outcomes.

The programme was designed and delivered to develop the graduate outcomes in learners. Whilst moderation, both internal and external, had been conducted and results were available, this is an area that needs strengthening, and this work was underway at the time of the consistency review.

Feedback from graduates via an on-line survey provides some confidence that the graduates match the graduate profile outcomes, although the questions relating directly to the graduate profile outcomes could be improved to provide more insight into the level of confidence of the graduates with these skills and knowledge.

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Progression to further study was strong, with half of the graduates progressing to the education organisation's Level 7 Advanced Diploma in Health Sciences (Naturopathy and Nutrition). Completion of this further study will provide the graduates with better opportunities to gain employment, or to establish their own business in the health area.

The next level tutor's feedback supported the graduates had the study and research skills to be working at the higher level, and that they were progressing well. The employer survey did not elicit many responses, and this was acknowledged as a weakness.

The organisation has provided plans for how they will further develop their systems to better capture and monitor feedback from their both graduates and employers. This development will support their quality and reporting on consistency of graduate outcomes on an ongoing basis.

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

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

None

Examples of good practice

None

Issues and concerns

None

Recommendations to Qualification Developer

The Qualification Developer participated in the review and gathered feedback. The Reviewer has no further recommendations.