

# Paerewa Ako me te Marautanga ā-motu | Skill Standards and ‘National Curriculum’

## Co-design plan

The purpose of this co-design process is to support the implementation of the RoVE legislation and the Government’s decision to simplify New Zealand qualifications and other credentials.

The delivery of a simplified qualifications and credential system requires the development of two new education products: skill standards and ‘national curriculum’ (working title).

Skill standards are intended to be the core building blocks of vocational qualifications and some other qualifications and credentials. They will be listed on the Directory of Assessment and Skill Standards (DASS) at Levels 1-7 and be components of qualifications up to Level 7 New Zealand Diplomas.

Where qualifications or credentials are made up of mandatory skill standards, these must be used by all providers. Skill standards will support seamless transitions from provider-based to workplace learning and vice-versa, help to address inconsistencies in programme and graduate outcomes and support a coherent and flexible qualifications and credentials landscape.

Skill standards and ‘national curricula’ may be developed by Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) and other Standard Setting Bodies (SSB), in collaboration with providers, industry and other stakeholders. Where a ‘national curriculum’ is developed and recognised by NZQA, it is intended to be used by all providers.

Skill standard and ‘national curriculum’ need to meet the needs of a wide range of stakeholders including learners, whānau, iwi, employers, communities, tertiary education organisations, government education organisations, schools, NZQA and other government departments/agencies.

To support a consistent approach to the development, usage and quality assurance of skill standard and ‘national curriculum’, templates and core components will be developed.

### Te Horopaki | Background

NZQA is the regulator of the NZ qualifications framework and formally sets the rules that ensure the quality of qualifications listed on the framework. In collaboration with stakeholders, NZQA ensure the framework and associated educational products remain relevant for NZ employers, society and students.

The diagram below outlines the stakeholder engagement process that is underway for the development and implementation of the new skill standard and ‘national curriculum’.

The skill standard and ‘national curriculum’ co-design work programme is part of a wider sector conversation that commenced with the Sandbox engagement meetings in 2020. At that time there was a strong desire for a more agile, simple system, supported by a quality assurance framework that enables and supports high quality outcomes.

Most sandbox participants supported a reduced number of education products, qualifications (or credentials) and unit standard. Other products were viewed as adding unnecessary complexity (including complex language), work and cost. They also add distance between employers and learners.

Proposals were then developed by NZQA to deliver this. These were further tested in 2021, through the “Simplifying New Zealand Qualifications and Other Credentials” consultation and other engagement activities. The focus was on:

- greater portability of students’ learning when they move between work-based and provider-based learning and between providers
- greater consistency of what graduates know and can do, so that employers can have confidence

The skill standards and ‘national curriculum’ co-design process will include sector appointed representatives to develop examples and processes for these products. The output from this will be used by NZQA to develop and review the Rules. These will be formally consulted on mid-2022. It is anticipated that skill standards and ‘national curriculum’ will be formally implemented by the education sector at the end of 2022.

### Ngā Tukanga o te Mahi Ngātahi | Co-design Engagement Process

The co-design process is led by Te Rāngai Ohu Mahi - Paerewa Ako me te Marautanga ā-motu | Skill Standards and ‘National Curriculum’ Sector Working Group. NZQA is the secretariat for the working group.

The group will develop skill standards and ‘national curriculum’ examples, a skill standard and ‘national curriculum’ template, and give input to Guidance for the development, approval, delivery and quality assurance of skill standard and ‘national curriculum’. Through this process the group will identify operational issues and opportunities to enhance the design and delivery of skill standards and ‘national curriculum’ and how they fit in the education product landscape.

Group members are a key conduit for specialist technical feedback that will be incorporated into the early stages of the design process.

Group members are drawn from WDCs, Te Pūkenga, Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, TITOs, universities, schools, PTEs, GTEs, Tertiary Education Union, TEC, MoE and NZQA. Group deliverables will inform broader sector engagement and consultation, and provide input to NZQA Rules and Guidance.

### Tukanga whakahaere | Approach

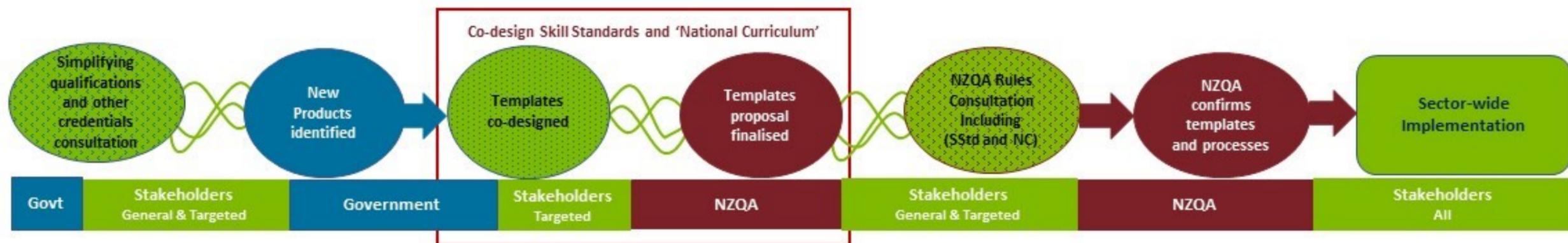
To support a consistent approach to the development, usage and quality assurance of skill standard and ‘national curriculum’, working templates and core components will be developed and tested by technical and subject matter experts from industry and education sectors.

The topic areas for the skill standard and ‘national curriculum’ examples will be confirmed by the Working Group, as will the team members, to ensure a balanced spread of working examples developed and relevant sector involvement.

The teams are led by WDCs or NZQA and be comprised of:

- WDCs
- Providers
- Subject Matter Experts - to provide subject expertise
- NZQA
- Other WG members may opt to join specific Teams workstreams

These teams will report their findings to the Working Group for review and will be used to inform recommendations to the NZQA Board.



Should you have any questions please email the NZQA RoVE team at [RoVE@NZQA.govt.nz](mailto:RoVE@NZQA.govt.nz)