

13 November 2013

ICT Draft Qualifications Consultation Feedback October 2013

Stakeholder feedback on the draft qualifications consultation, 25 September – 16 October 2013, generally supported the draft qualifications and supported them to be developed.

There were a number of concerns raised, and some of these have been addressed and some have been held over as they were more appropriately considered in the next stage of development. All submissions were considered in detail by the project team and Steering Group.

The key issues, with Steering Group (SG) response, include:

➤ **Support for qualifications**

There was strong support for the proposed qualifications through the multiple consultation processes. The first and second consultation drove the development of the qualifications and included significant industry input and support. The third consultation was predominantly with providers and included moderate to strong support. Where support was moderate, the SG considers the additional issues raised and made a number of changes as outlined below.

The SG agreed sufficient evidence of support exists to proceed to the “Approval to Develop” stage

➤ **Changes to qualification titles**

Several recommendations were made to change the titles of some of the qualifications, including making it clearer that the ‘tools’ qualifications were intended for ‘users’; showing level rather than ‘essentials’ in the transition qualification; and clarifying the systems and networking title.

The SG agreed to a number of these as follows.

- *Changing from “NZ Diploma in Systems and Network Administration (L6)” to “NZ Diploma in Systems Administration and Networking (L6)”*
- *Changing from “NZ Certificate in IT Essentials (Level 4)” to “NZ Certificate in Information Technology (Level 4)”.*
- *Changing from “NZ Certificate in Computing” qualifications to:*
 - *“NZ Certificate in Computing (User Fundamentals) (Level 2)”*,
 - *“NZ Certificate in Computing (Intermediate User) (Level 3)” and*
 - *“NZ Certificate in Computing (Advanced User) (Level 4)”.*

➤ **Level 5 Certificate in IT**

The ITENZ submission, supported by others, raised concerns about the L5 Certificate in IT; the lack of hands-on nature for it; the compulsory inclusion of some programming; and also suggested reducing the size to 40 credits.

SG discussed this in detail and this was also the subject of an additional meeting of a subset of the SG.. After this considerable discussion, the SG concluded that, given the content, purpose and outcomes specified through the detailed process to date, and agreed by the Steering Group, this qualification should remain at 60 credits. The SG also agreed that mention of the hands-on nature of learning should be reinforced in the documentation for application for approval to develop; and that the Chair of the SG would respond directly to ITENZ regarding the submission and decisions made.

➤ **Up-skilling**

There is a proposed NZ Certificate in Information Technology (Practitioner) at Level 6 for experienced practitioners looking to up-skill. There is some concern at the TEC policy of only funding a qualification once (or once within a period of time) meaning only one chance for a

learner to up-skill within the framework. Some submissions suggested that (around) 4 strands be included to enable up-skilling in different areas (eg “Server Administration”, “Network Security”, “Database Administration” and “Network Security”).

SG discussed this and agreed that it required further consideration but shouldn't delay the submission for stage 1. The SG agreed that advice re the intent to explore strands or other potential structural changes to this qualification to better meet the intent would be undertaken in the next stage of development, and mention of this should be included in the documentation for approval to develop.

➤ **Software development**

Extremes of views from degree minimum to a short vendor certification related option, and a number of submissions supporting 2 x 1 year qualification options.

SG had discussed the possibility of having two one year Diploma qualifications at several stages throughout the process, but re-determined that the strong view from industry was that one year at level 5 would not be adequate to prepare a learner for a career in programming related roles. The SG agreed that there was strong evidence of industry support for a 2 year qualification, and that this was the most appropriate option.

➤ **Generalisation/Specialisations**

IT: There was one submission in particular that was against the generalisation of qualifications at Level 5, and a request for the addition of a specialist network engineering and computer technician qualification.

SG noted that the change to a more generalised Level 5 was made following a significant amount of earlier feedback that level 5 was too early to specialise, and agreed to retain qualifications as proposed. SG believed that an additional qualification was not necessary and that the concern that this wouldn't “fit” an existing qualification could be able to be addressed at the programme level. The next stage of qualifications development would address additional contexts such as this.

Web: Several submissions were seeking a level 6 web development qualification

The SG agreed the proposed qualifications would meet this need, with the opportunity to choose a web development context in the NZ Diploma in Software Development (Level 6). The SG were made aware of the Creative Arts MRoQ developing draft web design and development qualifications at both Levels 5 & 6 which were yet to go to consultation, and agreed to keep in touch with this review as it progresses.

Teacher education: Concern about equipping teachers to teach ICT

The SG agreed to suggest to the Teacher Education Review for a qualification to educate teachers of and in ICT given there was clear evidence of a need.

➤ **Vendor certification references**

There was concern about naming these in documentation and the qualifications, given how quickly these change, and recommendation to include more generic wording in qualification documents to protect from outdated.

SG agreed to remove mention of specifics and replace with “qualification may also equip learners to attempt ‘optional’ internationally recognised industry vendor certifications at the appropriate level and area of specialty”.

➤ **Needs analysis and Māori specialisations**

There is continuing dialogue with the Wānanga over input to the needs analysis and ensuring the outcomes and other details of the ICT qualifications allow the Wānanga to deliver them while meeting the requirements of the Education Act.

The SG agreed that any decision on the inclusion of additional graduate profile outcome statements should not delay the submission for application for approval to develop the qualifications. This issue was being considered across reviews and would likely be considered further in stage 2 of the development process.

➤ **Learner needs**

How well qualifications meet learner needs is a very important issue, and while it has been considered at each stage, we should continue to test against it.

SG agreed to continue to consider this as a priority in the next stage of review.

➤ **Level 7 degree pathways**

A number of submissions raised concern about education pathway progression and the importance of diplomas providing pathways to degree qualifications. This was a general concern and no submission raised a specific issue in relation to this.

SG acknowledged this would be covered under employment pathways, and consider further as part of the next stage of development.

➤ **Employment pathways**

Some submissions expressed concern that some Employment Pathways were overly broad or unrealistic for graduates at the particular level. An example was the Level 5 Certificate in Information Technology.

SG agreed to generalise the L5 Certificate in IT Employment Pathway and adopt other suggestions from the consultation. SG industry members would review before submission, and further minor refinement could occur in the next stage of development.

➤ **Lack of understanding of process and general review requirements**

There is some concern following discussions and some submissions that many providers don't understand the purpose of the TRoQ/MRoQ and the new structure of qualifications across the board – i.e. with customisation and detail happening at the Programme level rather than the Qualification level. Many of the submissions express concern based on this misunderstanding. The SG and its participant organisations need to consider how best to address this issue, however it is an issue that needs to be considered across reviews.

SG agreed to support constituent organisations such as ITENZ, CITRENZ and IITP working together on symposium-type events in the new year. This would also be raised as a concern within the review documentation.

➤ **Detail wording feedback on draft qualifications**

There were a number of submissions providing detailed feedback proposing changes to the wording of graduate profile outcome statements or other parts of the draft qualifications.

SG agreed to the project team making any minor wording adjustments that clarify the matters but don't change the overall intentions from the SG and Working Group process; and agreed that any more significant wording changes be considered by WGs in the next stage of development.

The following shows the landscape of draft qualifications that went to consultation, and the revised qualifications map incorporating agreed changes and showing what is being submitted for approval to develop.

Note that this landscape shows some possible Level 7 qualifications. Level 7 was outside the scope of this Review, however was considered in brief for consistency. No qualifications at Level 7 have been developed.

Proposed qualifications that went to consultation September/October 2013:

NZQF Level	IT as a Tool		IT as a profession							
1	General education review	1								
2	NZ Certificate in Computing Fundamentals (40 credits)	2								
3	NZ Certificate in Computing (60 credits)	3								
4	NZ Certificate in Computing (Advanced) (60 credits)	4	NZ Certificate in IT Essentials (60 credits)							
5		5	NZ Certificate in Information Technology (60 credits)							
6		6	NZ Diploma in Systems and Network Administration (120 credits)	NZ Diploma in Software Implementation and support (120 credits)	NZ Diploma in Database Administration (120 credits)	NZ Diploma in Info Systems (strands in BA, ITPM, UX, Applied) (120 credits)	NZ Diploma in Web Design & Development (120 credits)	NZ Diploma in Software Development (240 credits)	NZ Certificate in Information Technology (Practitioner) (40 credits)	
7		7	NZ Cert/Dip in IT Security					NZ Cert/Dip in Software Testing OR Software Security		
Possible pathways.....			Bachelor Degrees (Level 7); Industry Certifications (Level 5, 6, 7)							

Proposed Computing and IT Qualifications Map – November 2013 (to 'approval to develop')

NZQF Level	IT as a Tool		IT as a profession							
1	General education review	1								
2	NZ Certificate in Computing (User Fundamentals) (40 credits)	2								
3	NZ Certificate in Computing (Intermediate User) (60 credits)	3								
4	NZ Certificate in Computing (Advanced User) (60 credits)	4	NZ Certificate in Information Technology (Level 4) (60 credits)							
5		5	NZ Certificate in Information Technology (Level 5) (60 credits)							
6		6	NZ Diploma in Systems Administration and Networking (120 credits)	NZ Diploma in Software Implementation and support (120 credits)	NZ Diploma in Database Administration (120 credits)	NZ Diploma in Info Systems (strands in BA, UX, ITPM, Applied) (120 credits)	NZ Diploma in Web Design & Development (120 credits)	NZ Diploma in Software Development (240 credits)	NZ Certificate in Information Technology (Practitioner) (40 credits)	
7		7	NZ Cert/Dip in IT Security					NZ Cert/Dip in Software Testing OR Software Security		
Possible pathways.....			Bachelor Degrees (Level 7); Industry Certifications (Level 5, 6, 7)							

