

FIELD EDUCATION**Review of *Pacific Islands Early Childhood Education* qualification****National Certificate in Pacific Islands Early Childhood Education (Parent Helper) with strands in Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, and Tonga [Ref: 0636]**

The National Qualifications Services (NQS) of NZQA has completed the review of the qualification listed above.

Replacement qualification

National Certificate in Pacific Islands Early Childhood Education (Level 4) [Ref: 1269].

Date new version published

January 2007

The next qualification review is planned to take place during 2012.

Summary of review and consultation process

Following a series of meetings in 2004 and 2005, the Pacific Island Early Childhood Education (PI ECE) Advisory Group decided to rollover the PI ECE unit standards and to review the National Certificate in Pacific Islands Early Childhood Education (Parent Helper) with strands in Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, and Tonga [Ref: 0636] with the intention of making it more equitable and attainable. However, the Advisory Group found the disparities between levels, credits, and the number of unit standards available for each Pacific Island group raised significant barriers to achieving that aim.

In March 2006, the advisory network met and considered whether generic PI ECE unit standards could be developed to meet the requirements of different groups. Following wide-ranging discussions, the meeting confirmed a desire for a National Certificate in Pacific Islands Early Childhood Education (Level 4). The skill and knowledge outcomes of the proposed unit standards align with the Level 4 descriptors. It was agreed that any PI ECE qualification needed to have rigour and meet the requirements of early childhood education in the New Zealand context.

The meeting confirmed and agreed a Level 4 PI ECE qualification needed to

- Encompass all of the generic Level 3 early childhood qualification ie 65 credits, to enable people to achieve two qualifications if they so choose, or to exit partway through with the Level 3 qualification.
- Ensure all Pacific support workers (the target group) have the generic skills required for early childhood workers while allowing for them to be achieved within a Pacific programme.
- Have 120 credits to make it more attractive for providers to offer as a one-year full-time programme (this would allow for 55 Pacific Island credits and ensure a match between content and title).
- Cover the skills required by support workers in any ECE centre and also be able to be used to staircase into either teaching through the National Diploma in Teaching (Early Childhood Education, Pasifika) (Level 7) [Ref: 0983] or the higher level support skills through the National Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 5) [Ref: 0430].

- Allow candidates to achieve it through either a provider or on-job training provided there were registered assessors in this area. Both approaches would require practical skills to be demonstrated in a supervised early childhood setting.
- Comprise of mostly compulsory standards with an elective section to recognise other Pacific Island skills.

In June 2006, at a meeting to endorse the final drafts of the new unit standards, the advisory network representatives also endorsed the new qualification.

Main changes resulting from the review

Review category	C	See Key to Qualification Review Categories at the end of report
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The National Certificate in Pacific Islands Early Childhood Education (Parent Helper) with strands in Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, and Tonga [Ref: 0636] has been designated as expiring.

A new replacement qualification, the National Certificate in Pacific Islands Early Childhood Education (Level 4) [Ref: 1269] has been registered.

Transition

National Qualifications Services (NQS) is unaware on any existing candidates for the replaced qualification and none of the Pacific Island standards within it have been awarded. It is therefore considered that no transition arrangements are required and the replaced qualification will not be awarded.

The qualification will expire on 31 December 2006.

If, however, any candidate feels they been disadvantaged, they can contact National Qualifications Services (NQS) at the address below.

National Qualifications Services
 NZQA
 PO Box 160
 WELLINGTON

Telephone 04 463 3000
 Email nqs@nzqa.govt.nz

Key to Qualification Review Categories

Category A The qualification is published as a new version with the same NQF ID	Changes are made to SSB name, contact details or purpose statement
	No change is made to title, rules or components of the qualification
	No transition arrangements are required
Category B The qualification is published as a new version with the same NQF ID	Changes are made to title, rules or components
	The new version of the qualification recognises a similar skill set to that recognised by the previous version
	The SSB is confident that people awarded the new or previous version are comparable in terms of competence
	Transition arrangements are required if candidates must gain additional/different credits for the new version
Category C A new (replacement) qualification is published with new NQF ID	Significant changes are made to the qualification in terms of components, structure, type or level
	The SSB views people with the replacement qualification as being significantly different in terms of competence from those with the replaced qualification
	Transition arrangements are required
	Transition may be limited to phase-out dates
Category D Qualification will expire. There is no replacement qualification	Qualification is no longer required by industry
	The qualification is designated as expiring and a last date for meeting the qualification requirements is set