

Field: Society and Culture

## Change report for Professional Legal Skills New Zealand qualification

### New qualification

Ref	Version	Qualification Title	Credits
4993	1	New Zealand Certificate in Professional Legal Skills (Level 6)	50

### Review information

Qualification Developer	Ringa Hora Services Workforce Development Council
Reason for the review	New Qualification
Review date	December 2023
Outcome date	February 2024
Next review date	December 2028

#### Summary of development and consultation process

This qualification is a new development that was facilitated by Ringa Hora Services Workforce Development Council and involved the participation and subject-matter expertise of the Professional Legal Studies Course (PLSC) regulatory body, the New Zealand Council of Legal Education (NZCLE), and providers of the PLSC, College of Law New Zealand Limited (CoLNZ), and the Institute of Professional Legal Studies (IPLS).

The Professional Legal Studies Course is a long-established course which prepares law graduates for the legal workplace. It focusses on practical and professional skills required by lawyers and is a statutorily required prerequisite to admission as a barrister and solicitor in Aotearoa New Zealand. Two education organisations had training schemes for the PLSC. These training schemes were the Professional Legal Studies Course (Training Scheme) (Level 6) – NZCLE, and Professional Legal Studies Course: Online (PLSCO) (Training Scheme) (Level 6) – CoLNZ.

Correspondence between NZCLE, IPLS, and CoLNZ began in April 2023 and concluded in December 2023. This included meetings with the interested parties to collect documentation of the PLSC to inform the development of the qualification.

A questionnaire was also distributed to legal associations before commencing initial meeting and included questions to inform the development of the qualification. An initial meeting in August brought together the relevant stakeholders to confirm the development process and a Working Group was established. The Working Group developed the qualification in late August and subsequent online meetings were then held to go through the feedback with further interactions made to the draft qualification. Written correspondence also occurred with legal associations and bodies such as the New Zealand Law Students Association, New Zealand Law Society, Crown Law, and the New Zealand Bar Association throughout the process of the development.

The draft qualification for wider consultation was uploaded onto the Ringa Hora Services WDC website to request any further feedback before submission to NZQA for evaluation.

## Any additional information

Please refer to [Qualifications and Assessment Standards Approvals](#) for further information or contact the qualification developer at:

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