

Simplifying New Zealand qualifications and other credentials

He Whakamārama - Background

Purpose

This document provides a high-level overview of the Simplifying NZ Qualifications and Other Credentials consultation proposals. The detailed consultation document is available here [VQconsult.nzqa.govt.nz](https://vqconsult.nzqa.govt.nz)

Reform of Vocational Education (RoVE)

RoVE is the biggest change and transformation of our vocational education system in 35 years.

RoVE seeks to deliver a unified vocational education system that will bring together industry, iwi and educators to deliver a workforce which is fit for New Zealand’s needs today and in the future.

The new system will have a stronger focus on employers, which includes iwi, and will be designed to provide learners with the skills they need to participate in the world of work in the 21st century.

Qualification Design in RoVE

The design of vocational qualifications, credentials and other quality assurance activities have a critical role in the reform.

RoVE seeks to create greater consistency in learning outcome and greater collaboration between providers and employers.

Simplifying the range and design of vocational education products could better enable:

- the portability of students’ learning if they move between work-based and provider-based learning and between providers
- consistency of what graduates know and can do, providing employers with confidence in students’ skills

Ngā Whakatakotoranga – The Proposals

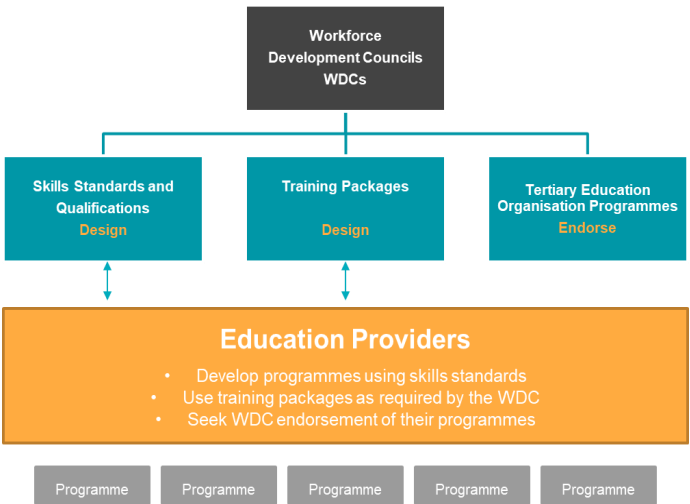
Proposal 1:

Ensuring vocational qualifications meet the needs of students and employers

Seeks to ensure that vocational qualifications support learner mobility and that employers can be confident that all graduates know and can do the same things.



Option A: Implementing the current legislative settings for qualifications and programmes

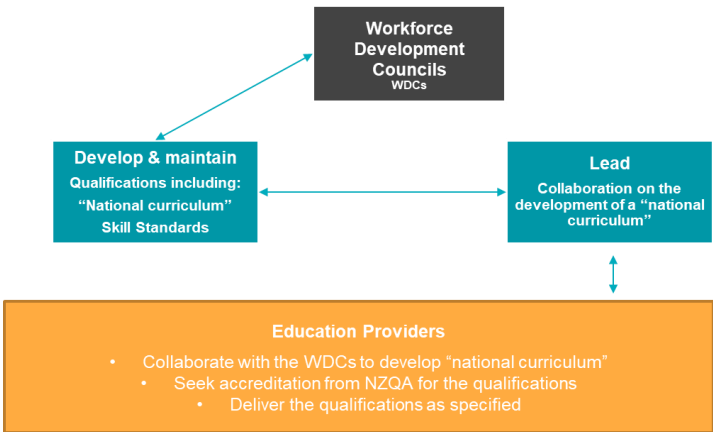


The key features of Option A are:

- Skill standards will be the core building blocks of vocational qualifications
- WDCs will develop qualifications and skill standards informed by industry need
- Providers will develop programmes and WDCs will endorse them to ensure that they meet industry need
- NZQA will approve programmes after they are endorsed by WDCs
- The WDCs will moderate providers’ assessment of skill standards to ensure consistency
- WDCs can develop training packages, which could specify what and how programmes are delivered
- **Point to note:** This is what is already outlined in the Education and Training Act 2020.

For more information see Page 9 of the Simplifying New Zealand qualifications and other credentials consultation document

Option B: Simplified system comprising qualifications, skill standards and micro-credentials



The “national curriculum” would:

- meet the policy intent of training packages, and would replace need for training packages and programmes
- include all skills standards required for the qualification
- be specified in the qualification
- be collaboratively developed

The key features of Option B are:

- WDCs (and other qualification developers) would lead the collaboration on the development of a national curriculum
- Training packages would be removed from the legislation
- Components of qualifications would remain the same. The “national curriculum” could be specified under conditions and/or through specifying the use of mandatory and elective skills standards. Providers would not need to develop programmes and there would be no WDC endorsement
- The requirements for programmes would be removed from the legislation

Points to note:

This option will require changes to Education and Training Act 2020

- Option B includes all ‘New Zealand qualifications’ at levels 1 – 7 on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF), as providers have told us it would be confusing to have different requirements for different qualifications at the same levels

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Ngā Whakatakotoranga – The Proposals

Proposal 2:

Replacing training schemes with micro-credentials

Seeks to simplify the range of quality assured credentials (non-NZQF listed credentials) so that the system is easier for learners and employers

Proposal 2

Will require changes to training schemes as currently defined in the Education and Training Act 2020

The key features of this proposal are:

- Training schemes are replaced by micro-credentials in the legislation
- The need for smaller packages of learning (less than 40 credits) would be met through micro-credentials
- Existing training schemes would be deemed micro-credentials
- NZQA will review its rules for micro-credentials to ensure they are not overly restrictive

For more information see Page 22 of the Simplifying New Zealand qualifications and other credentials consultation document

Proposal 3:

Enabling micro-credentials to be developed by WDCs for providers to deliver

Seeks to rectify a technical issue with the Education and Training Act 2020

Proposal 3

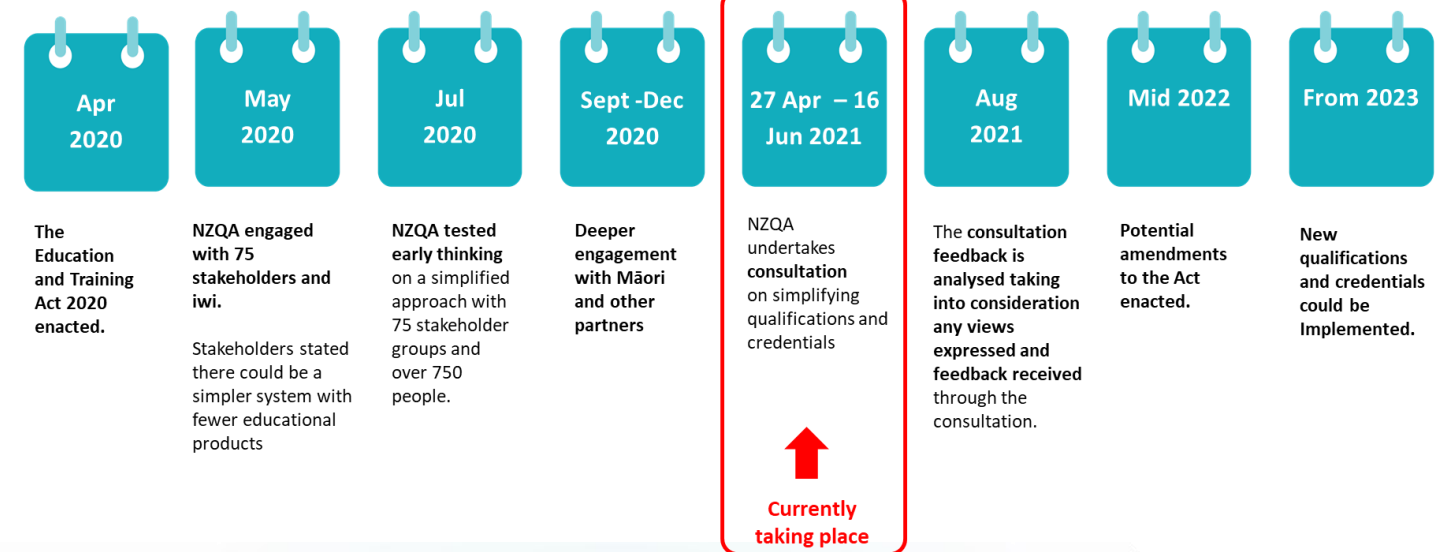
Will require changes to training scheme approval as currently defined in the Education and Training Act 2020

The key features of this proposal are:

- Approval and accreditation of micro-credentials would be separated in the Act. WDCs would then be able to develop national micro-credentials and providers would be able to apply to NZQA for accreditation to deliver them
- Providers would be able to continue to develop and be accredited to deliver their own micro-credentials

For more information see Page 25 of the Simplifying New Zealand qualifications and other credentials consultation document

Rārangi Wā - Timelines



Ā Muri Ake - Next Steps

To provide feedback, you can:

- Complete the online submission form at [VQconsult.nzqa.govt.nz](https://vqconsult.nzqa.govt.nz)
- Email us VQconsult@nzqa.govt.nz
- Write to us at:

RoVE Qualifications Review
Quality Assurance Division
NZQA
PO Box 160
Wellington 6015

The consultation is open until 6pm 16 June 2021.

If you have any questions about the consultation or the consultation process, you can send an email to VQconsult@nzqa.govt.nz or give us a call on 0800 697 296.

