

Australian Qualifications *Framework*

AQF COUNCIL

Policy for the addition or removal of qualification types

Final draft

March 2010

Australian Qualifications Framework Council

A Committee of the Ministerial Council for
Tertiary Education and Employment

AQF Policy for the addition and removal of qualification types Final draft 22/03/2010

page 1

Table of contents

1 Purpose

1.1 Scope of the policy

1.2 Users of the policy and protocols

2 Policy for the addition of qualification types to the AQF

2.1 Protocols

2.1.1 Criteria

2.1.2 Communication

2.1.3 Recommending authorities

3 Policy for the removal of qualification types from the AQF

3.1 Protocols

3.1.1 Criteria and consultation

3.1.2 Recommending authorities

4 Decision making

1 Intent

The purpose of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) policy for the addition or removal of qualifications types is to ensure that the AQF has flexibility and is responsive to Australia's changing education and training environment. This policy will ensure that changes to the structure of the AQF are able to be made and do not compromise the stability of the AQF.

This policy forms part of the Australian Qualifications Framework.

1.1 Scope of the policy

This policy sets out the requirements for the addition of qualification types to the AQF or removal of qualification types from the AQF. The policy and protocols cover all education and training sectors that offer AQF qualifications.

There may be a range of reasons why the AQF Council will be requested to add or remove qualification types from the AQF, including changing educational, industry, professional or community needs.

1.2 Users of the policy

The users of the policy are the authorised issuing organisations and the accrediting authorities in each education and training sector. Under devolved quality assurance arrangements for each sector, different accrediting authorities are responsible for the implementation and monitoring of these policies and protocols.

The other users of the policy are graduates, employers, industry and professional associations, licensing and regulatory bodies and other interested parties.

2 Policy for the addition of qualification types to the AQF

Qualification types can be added to the AQF if there is a clear industry, professional or community need and a sound educational rationale.

2.1 Protocols

2.1.1 Criteria

A new qualification type will:

- be able to be quality assured by government approved standards
- be able to be accredited by an authority authorised under legislation to accredit AQF qualifications to do so
- be described according to the AQF taxonomy of learning outcomes (knowledge, skills and application of knowledge and skills)
- be able to be located at an existing AQF qualification level
- have clear pathways within the AQF.

2.1.2 Consultation

Consultation will have occurred with the relevant industry, provider and government stakeholders and be documented as support with robust evidence that the new qualification type:

- does not duplicate an existing AQF qualification type, and
- meets a defined industry or professional need.

2.1.3 Recommending authorities

Only relevant accrediting authorities authorised under legislation to accredit AQF qualifications may put forward a recommendation for inclusion of a qualification type, in writing, to the AQF Council.

3 Removal of qualification types from the AQF

Qualification types can be removed from the AQF if there is a clear industry or professional need and a sound educational rationale.

3.1 Protocols

3.1.1 Criteria and consultation

Consultation will have occurred with the relevant industry, provider and government stakeholders and be documented as support with robust evidence that:

- the qualification type is redundant
- there is agreement across the relevant sector, and
- pathways have been developed for any students who may still be enrolled as the qualification is phased out.

3.1.2 Recommending authorities

Only relevant accrediting authorities authorised under legislation to accredit AQF qualifications may put forward a recommendation for removal of a qualification type, in writing, to the AQF Council.

4 Decision making

The AQF Council will make a decision based on the evidence provided that a qualification type will be added or removed from the AQF. This decision will be communicated as soon as possible to all relevant stakeholders following the Council meeting at which the decision is finalised.