

The strengthened AQF has been approved for implementation to commence on 1 July 2011

At its meeting on 18 March 2011 the Ministerial Council for Tertiary Education and Employment (MCTEE) approved the final aspects of the strengthened AQF and the implementation arrangements. The MCTEE communiqué can be found at http://www.deewr.gov.au/Skills/Overview/Governance/Pages/Ministerial_Council.aspx.

The approved AQF is an integrated package of specifications for the 16 qualification types and policies. The AQF has an explicit levels structure of 10 levels against which the qualification types, with the exception of the Senior Secondary Certificate of Education, are located. The policies specify the requirements for issuing qualifications, for registers of qualifications and issuing organisations, and for pathways between qualifications. The terminology of the AQF is defined in a glossary to facilitate consistent application of the policies and specifications. The holistic approach of the AQF is brought together in the *AQF Qualification Type Specifications*.

An additional policy has been approved to enable the AQF Council to add or remove qualification types to ensure the AQF remains contemporary. The objectives of the AQF, originally adopted in 1995, have been updated to reflect the current context in which it operates. MCTEE adopted national principles and processes to facilitate the future alignment of the AQF with qualifications frameworks in other nations to assist with the recognition of the qualifications of students and workers who are increasingly mobile.

MCTEE will now seek advice from the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs to confirm the specification for the Senior Secondary Certificate.

Ministers approved the membership of the AQF Council for its second term from May 2011 until April 2014. MCTEE appointed Professor Peter Hoj to the new higher education position agreed in November 2010 and Professor John Wood as an additional member with skills and experience in dual sector provision. Full details of membership for the second term and the updated terms of reference for the AQF Council will be available on the AQF website from the commencement of the new term of the Council.

The final version of the AQF approved by MCTEE on 18 March is available on the AQF website at <http://www.aqf.edu.au>. The AQF publication, which will include the specifications, policies, objectives and governance arrangements, will be available prior to the commencement of implementation.

Australian

Qualifications *Framework*

The approved implementation arrangements are available on the AQF website at <http://www.aqf.edu.au>. Guidance materials currently under development will be available to support implementation.

An official launch of the revised AQF will be held on 23 June 2011 in Melbourne. More information will be available on the website as plans progress.

The AQF Council's consultation papers, research reports and stakeholder responses are available on the AQF website on the Projects page. Any enquiries should be sent to aqfc@sa.gov.au

Contact us: AQF Council

Level 4, 11 Waymouth Street Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 320 Adelaide SA 5001

Tel: 08 8226 2775

Email: aqfc@sa.gov.au

Web: www.aqf.edu.au

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