

Changes to the AQF in AQF Second Edition January 2013

The AQF Second Edition January 2013 is different from the AQF First Edition July 2011 as follows.

The amended AQF Specification for the Graduate Certificate and the AQF Specification for the Graduate Diploma have replaced those in the AQF First Edition July 2011 (pages 53-58). The qualification titles Vocational Graduate Certificate and Vocational Graduate Diploma have been removed from the list of qualification titles in the AQF Qualifications Issuance Policy (page 72) and from the graphic and the tables in AQF Levels Criteria and AQF Qualification Type Descriptors (pages 14-19).

The implementation arrangements have been updated to allow for implementation of the amended qualification types to commence from 1 January 2013 (page 103).

Details about the accrediting authorities, developers of qualifications and authorised issuing organisations have been updated in the introductory section to the AQF Qualification Type Specifications (pages 21-22) and related footnotes throughout the document to ensure consistency with the changed regulatory arrangements for the AQF in the higher education and vocational education and training sectors which commenced from mid-2011.

The AQF Specification for the Diploma and the AQF Specification for the Advanced Diploma now include a statement to make it clear that these qualification types are available for accreditation and issuance in both higher education and vocational education and training (pages 38 and 41). The same statement is included in the amended AQF Specification for the Graduate Certificate and the AQF Specification for the Graduate Diploma.

A new section on the requirement for the replacement of statements of attainment has been added to the AQF Qualifications Issuance Policy to rectify its inadvertent omission from the AQF First Edition July 2011 (section 2.5.9 on page 74).

The requirement for registers of pathways in the AQF Qualifications Pathways Policy is repeated in the AQF Qualifications Register Policy for improved clarity (section 2.5.1 on page 85).

The term 'employability skills' has been changed to 'foundation skills' for consistency with the *National Foundation Skills Strategy for Adults*. This applies to the qualification types available for accreditation in vocational education and training, namely the Certificates 1 – IV, Diploma, Advanced Diploma, Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma (section 'Responsibility for accreditation and development' in the AQF Specifications for each qualification type). A definition of foundation skills has been added to the AQF Glossary of Terminology (page 95).

Minor grammatical errors have been corrected and references to the Ministerial Council updated.