

AQF Qualification Type Addition and Removal Policy

I INTRODUCTION

I.1 Purpose

The purpose of the *AQF Qualification Type Addition and Removal Policy* is to ensure that:

- the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) has the flexibility to respond to Australia's changing education and training needs, and
- changes to AQF structure do not compromise the stability or integrity of the AQF.

This policy sets out the requirements for the addition and the removal of qualification types from the AQF. It also includes the requirements for the addition of qualification titles.

I.2 Scope

The policy covers all education and training sectors that issue AQF qualifications.

The terminology used in the AQF policies is not sector-specific. To support consistency of understanding and interpretation, definitions of the terminology are provided in the *AQF Glossary of Terminology*.

I.3 Users

The principal user of the policy is the AQF Council.

The other users of the policy are accrediting authorities including self-accrediting organisations, authorised issuing organisations, students, graduates, employers, industry and professional bodies, and licensing and regulatory bodies.

I.4 Monitoring

The AQF Council is responsible for the implementation and ongoing use of this policy.

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2 POLICY

2.1 Addition of qualification types

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

2.1.1 To be included in the AQF 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
- be described according to the AQF taxonomy of learning outcomes (knowledge, skills, the application of knowledge and skills and generic learning outcomes)
- be able to be located at an existing AQF level, and
- have clear pathways within the AQF

2.1.2 Any organisation may put forward a request for inclusion of a new qualification type, in writing, to the AQF Council following comprehensive consultation with and support from the relevant industry, professional, provider and government stakeholders.

2.1.3 The AQF Council will make a decision about the addition of a new qualification type based on robust evidence that there is a sound educational reason for its addition and the new qualification type:

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

2.2 Removal of qualification types

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

2.2.1 Any organisation may put forward a request for removal of an existing qualification type, in writing, to the AQF Council following comprehensive consultation with and support from the relevant industry, professional, provider and government stakeholders.

2.2.2 The AQF Council will make a decision to remove an existing qualification type based on robust evidence that:

- the qualification type is redundant
- there is agreement from the relevant education and training sector(s)
- transition arrangements and pathways have been developed for any students who may still be enrolled as the qualification type is phased out, and
- an equivalence with a remaining AQF qualification type is agreed.

2.2.3 The AQF Council will retain the qualification type descriptor and specification for any qualification type removed from the AQF to allow for ongoing recognition of any qualifications of this type awarded to graduates.

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2.3 Addition of alternative qualification titles for level 9 Masters Degree (Extended)

The use of the qualification title 'Doctor of ...' is permitted for level 9 Masters Degree (Extended) qualifications if there is a clear industry, professional or community need and a sound educational rationale.

2.3.1 Any organisation may put forward a request for the addition of a profession/discipline for which the alternative title 'Doctor of ...' may be used for a level 9 Masters Degree (Extended) qualification, in writing, to the AQF Council following comprehensive consultation with and support from the relevant industry, professional, provider and government stakeholders.

2.3.2 The AQF Council will make a decision about the addition of the alternative title based on robust evidence that:

- the qualification for which the title will be applied meets the AQF specifications for the level 9 Masters Degree (Extended)
- the use of the title is justified against demonstrated and reputable practice for the profession in Australia and/or internationally and it is in the best interest of graduates
- there is defined industry, professional or community need, and
- there is a sound educational reason for the addition.



**Australian Qualifications
Framework Council**

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