

**16 June 2021**

## *NZCIC submission to NZQA: Simplifying NZ Qualifications and other Credentials*

### **Introduction**

The New Zealand Construction Industry Council (NZCIC) is a not-for-profit peak industry association representing around 35 member organisations involved in the delivery of our built environment. Our members represent designers and specifiers (architects, engineers etc.), contractors and suppliers (manufacturers, distributors, builders etc.) and a range of other building professionals (compliance, research, surveyors, developers etc.).

### **Proposal 1**

#### **Question 1.1**

NZCIC prefers Option B. This will provide a simplified system which is easier to navigate for employers and learners and will reduce complexity for providers and WDCs.

We suggest an alteration to Option B be considered that would require providers seeking approval from NZQA to deliver a qualification to first be endorsed by the WDC. This replicates the requirement for the WDC to endorse a provider's programme under Option A.

#### **Question 1.2**

No comment

#### **Question 1.3**

Qualifications should be developed collaboratively by the WDC working with subject matter experts (SMEs) from industry and providers. The technical group developing the qualification should be able to continue to develop the national curriculum, although the composition of the group may change to be more provider focussed.

#### **Question 1.4**

NZCIC does not have the in-depth knowledge to fully answer this question. However, our preference is that qualifications and therefore national curriculums in the coverage of a WDC should be endorsed by that WDC. This will provide more consistent outcomes and greater trust in qualifications by industry and employers.

#### **Question 1.5**

A simplified, less complex qualification system will help industry understand available options and improve outcome consistency. Additionally, it may lead to greater flexibility due to easily understood qualification options and pathways.



**Question 1.6**

No comment.

**Question 1.7**

Refer to 1.5.

**Question 1.8**

There is a risk that WDCs, and therefore industry, will lose influence on the providers of qualifications.

As per 1.1, providers of qualifications/national curriculums should be endorsed by the WDC before being approved to deliver.

**Question 1.9**

No comment

**Question 1.10**

As per 1.3, a collaborative development model incorporating the WDC, industry and providers will enable the national curriculum to have the appropriate level of detail required to ensure consistency of output and freedom of delivery. This will vary according to the qualification and level of risk associated with outputs. For example, a national curriculum for a high-risk industry qualification may include significantly more detail than a national curriculum for a creative art qualification.

**Question 1.11**

No comment

**Proposal 2**

**Question 2.1**

NZCIC supports replacing training schemes with micro-credentials as a step to simplifying the qualification system.

A simplified and less complex system of qualifications and credentials will help the industry understand available options and lead to greater flexibility due to easily understood qualification options and pathways.

**Question 2.2**

The construction sector urgently needs flexible training and credentials to meet demands of technological and other disruptions and assist in upskilling and reskilling to improve retention and career progression. These changes will improve resilience and productivity across the sector.

**Question 2.3**

We do not anticipate any added risk.

**Question 2.4**

No comment

**Question 2.5**

No comment





## Proposal 3

### Question 3.1

NZCIC supports urgent legislative change enabling WDCs to develop micro-credentials for use by providers. We consider this an essential step towards a well-functioning and flexible qualification system. We also support the continuation of provider developed micro-credentials and recognise the importance of these in the system.

### Question 3.2

The change will provide greater opportunities for industry to influence the development of micro-credentials through the WDC. This will provide consistent outputs across providers, improve collaboration of both development and delivery and reduce cost.

### Question 3.3

NZCIC agrees WDCs should be able to seek approval for micro-credentials from NZQA. Providers who are endorsed by the WDC can then seek approval from NZQA to deliver the micro-credential.

### Question 3.4

NZCIC does not anticipate any risks with the proposal provided that providers seeking approval from NZQA to deliver WDC developed micro-credentials are endorsed by the WDC.

### Question 3.5

No comment

### Question 3.6

Micro-credentials have an important role in meeting needs arising from technological and other disruptions, meeting regional and social needs, and providing steppingstones for career progression. WDCs have strategic oversight of the skills needs of their industries. Therefore, it is vital that they coordinate the development of micro-credentials for their industry sectors. It is also important that providers may continue to develop and deliver micro-credentials where there is a specific need from a region or subsector of an industry.

### Question 3.7

No comment

### Contact us

For any questions regarding this submission, please email [info@nzcic.co.nz](mailto:info@nzcic.co.nz) or phone Graham Burke 021 249 3459.

Yours faithfully,



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