The role of the AQF in articulation and pathways

ACPET Conference
August 2010
What is the AQF?

- AQF is the key *national policy mechanism* bringing together all of Australia’s regulated qualifications into one comprehensive framework

- It is a *national* and *tri-sectoral* framework

- It includes all qualifications in:
  - Senior secondary schooling (public and private schools)
  - Vocational education and training (TAFE and private providers)
  - Higher education (public Universities and private providers)

- It is owned, funded and governed by all 9 governments
Strengthening the AQF

- Commenced Strengthening the AQF Project in late 2008 with funding support
- Three phases – design, build, implement
- Extensive consultation and involvement of stakeholders in development
- Detailed consideration of Qualifications Frameworks in other countries
- Changes intended to ensure AQF meets current and future needs of qualifications for the global economy & Australia retains its leadership in qualifications frameworks
The strengthened AQF

Comprised of:

✓ A new levels structure
✓ Revised qualification type descriptors
✓ Revised qualification specifications
✓ Revised and new policies
A New Structure

- The structure of the AQF
  - Based on a taxonomy of levels and qualification types
  - Expressed as learning outcomes – knowledge, skills and application of knowledge and skills
  - 10 levels of increasing complexity
  - Qualification types constructed as learning outcomes with embedded generic skills
  - Notional duration of student learning (volume of learning) for each qualification type
Qualification Type
learning outcomes and volume

Level
learning outcomes

Qualification
learning outcomes, content and volume
A New Structure

Levels criteria include:

☑ Summary of the level

☑ Knowledge

☑ Skills

☑ Application of knowledge and skills

☑ Generic skills embedded in the learning outcomes
A New Structure

Qualification type descriptors include:

- Purpose of qualification type
- Knowledge
- Skills
- Application of knowledge and skills
- Notional duration of student learning
Specifications

- Comprehensive specifications for each qualification type have been developed to ensure the consistent application of the strengthened AQF in the development, accreditation and quality provision of Australian qualifications.
Specifications (cont)

- Include:
  1. Introduction
  2. AQF levels criteria
  3. AQF qualification type descriptor
  4. Generic learning outcomes
  5. Notional duration of student learning
  6. Qualification nomenclature
  7. Responsibility for accreditation
  8. Pathways and linkages
  9. Applying the specifications
  10. Authority to issue the qualification
Policies

Draft policies
1. AQF generic skills policy (new)
2. AQF qualifications issuance policy
3. AQF qualifications pathways and linkages policy
4. AQF register policy
5. Addition or removal of qualification types policy (new)
6. Glossary of AQF terminology (new)
Current qualification pathways and linkages

- Doctoral Degree
- Masters Degree
- Graduate Diploma
- Graduate Certificate
- Bachelor Degree
- Associate Degree
- Advanced Diploma
- Diploma
- Senior Secondary Certificate of Education
- Vocational Graduate Diploma
- Vocational Graduate Certificate
- Advanced Diploma
- Diploma
- Certificate IV
- Certificate III
- Certificate II
- Certificate I

Schools Sector: Gray
Vocational Education and Training Sector: Dark Green
Higher Education Sector: Light Purple
AQF qualifications pathways and linkages policy

Policy includes:

- principles
- responsibilities of issuing organisations; developers and accrediting authorities
- articulation and credit needs to be identified when qualifications are developed and accredited
- register of articulation and credit arrangements to be maintained by organisations issuing AQF qualifications
Glossary of AQF terminology

- Glossary recognises the need for consistency in understanding of the terminology used in the AQF
- Terms include those used in the:
  - levels criteria
  - qualification type descriptors
  - policies
What’s next?

- Phase 3 – develop implementation arrangements
- Including transition arrangements and resources to support implementation all AQF users
Contact us

Subscribe to AQF Council email newsletter

Email: aqfc@sa.gov.au

Web address: www.aqf.edu.au