



<b>PROGRAMME ENDORSEMENT</b>	
<p>Are there any changes in processes that are different from existing NZQA processes?</p>	<p>The programme endorsement process is a new process introduced as part of the Reform of Vocational Education.</p> <p>There is no change to NZQA’s process aside from the need to confirm that a programme has received endorsement from the relevant WDC before it is approved.</p> <p>More information about the programme approval process (including the programme endorsement process) can be found on <a href="#">NZQA’s website</a>.</p>
<p>What would you expect from education providers in terms of information or evidence for programme endorsement?</p>	<p>The WDCs have published the considerations they will be looking at as part of the approval process and have given guidance about the evidence that should be provided.</p> <p>The following information and examples of evidence would support any application to WDCs for programme endorsement. However, you will know better how your organisation has met the considerations and can provide the appropriate information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A completed Programme Endorsement Request form</li> <li>• A copy of your proposed programme</li> <li>• A description of the Programme development process and any engagement with the relevant WDC that has happened prior to the application</li> <li>• Information about how Māori, Pacific People, and disabled people are supported with teaching, learning, and assessment</li> <li>• Relevant policies and procedures</li> <li>• Tutor/teacher/assessor job descriptions and professional development plans</li> <li>• Evidence of industry and stakeholder engagement</li> <li>• Advisory group meeting minutes, and/or letters of support from stakeholders.</li> </ul>
<p>Will the endorsement for a Type 2 change process be much quicker?</p>	<p>The timeframe for WDC endorsement is 20 working days. The timeframe for responses to Type 2 changes may be quicker depending on the nature of the proposed change.</p> <p>It is really helpful if you clearly describe/highlight the changes made (i.e., tracked changes) to assist the evaluator.</p>
<p>Who looks after Type 1 programme changes?</p>	<p>Type 1 changes do not require endorsement by the WDC but will still need to be approved by NZQA.</p>
<p>Will WDCs work with NZQA to get applications processed ‘within 45 days’?</p>	<p>The timeframe for WDC endorsement is 20 working days, excluding any time required to gather more information from the applicant.</p> <p>We strongly encourage providers to engage with us early on and throughout their programme development process.</p>



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS AND STANDARD SETTING, PROGRAMME ENDORSEMENT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

	<p>Information from the programme endorsement process will be provided to you and should be forwarded to NZQA to support the application process.</p> <p>NZQA will process applications within 45 working days, or 30 working days for category 1 education organisations.</p> <p>WDCs and NZQA have committed to review the two processes together at an appropriate date in the near future.</p>
<p>On what grounds could WDC not approve an application? Could the regional need affect a decision?</p>	<p>WDCs are committed to working with providers to ensure that programmes reflect industry requirements and align with the wider aims of the Reform of Vocational Education, particularly equity for learners.</p> <p>We do not intend to refuse to endorse programmes, and we will work with providers to resolve any issues. In the unlikely event that a programme is not endorsed, this will be an action of last resort undertaken because the provider is unable to meet the considerations for endorsement.</p> <p>In time, the WDC may provide more detailed expectations about the requirements for programmes leading to specific qualifications. These kinds of changes will be well signalled ahead of time and will reflect industry needs and aspirations.</p> <p>Gaining endorsement from the WDC does not guarantee access to funding from TEC. Advice about regional needs is provided to TEC for consideration in investment planning.</p> <p>WDCs strongly recommend that providers make contact early to share their plans for programme development.</p>
<p>How do you assess the regional need for providers who are nationwide?</p>	<p>The WDC will be working with several agencies to identify regional needs and, in time, using data and insights to determine regional skill and training requirements.</p> <p>As part of the NZQA approval process, it will be necessary for the applicant to justify the need for the programme in the region/s it will be delivered. This is the same as the current process.</p>
<p><b>MICRO-CREDENTIALS</b></p>	
<p>Who is looking after micro-credentials? NZQA or WDCs?</p>	<p>NZQA will continue to approve micro-credentials. Providers intending to develop or review a micro-credential are expected to involve the WDC who has coverage of that industry.</p> <p>NZQA is reviewing the micro-credential rules. Legislation is also being considered by Parliament to rename 'training schemes' micro-credentials and allow accreditation to be given for micro-credentials.</p> <p>Collectively, these changes will mean some changes to the micro-credential criteria, and the approval process.</p>
<p>Can micro-credentials now be part of a qualification or cover unit standards?</p>	<p>Micro-credentials can currently contribute to the achievement of a qualification.</p>



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	<p>Stackable micro-credentials will indicate in their approval which programme they can be used towards.</p> <p>Micro-credentials already include unit standards. Normal consent to assess requirements apply.</p>
<b>QUALITY ASSURANCE AND MODERATION</b>	
What moderation requirements will providers have?	<p>PROVIDERS are required to have an internal moderation process in place and to continue to meet the consent and moderation (CMR) requirements.</p> <p>All providers assessing against unit standards will continue to engage with the respective WDC's national external quality assurance and moderation plan.</p>
One provider has had a full suite of all unit standards up for moderation this year. Is this the plan going forward?	<p>Each WDC will work with individual providers where an increased number of unit standards are being called. WDCs are looking at what transformation for assurance looks like in 2023, so there are likely to be positive changes to the current system.</p> <p>If a provider is concerned about the high number of unit standards that are being called for moderation, they should contact the relevant WDC(s) and work out a plan that meets both parties' requirements.</p>
What moderation will occur for programmes that have courses in them?	<p>Currently, moderation is based on the use of unit standards. However, a provider should have an internal moderation system in place and potentially also an agreement with another provider for external peer moderation. This is deemed to be best practice but not a WDC requirement.</p>
Will NZQA also do moderation? Will NZQA undertake moderation 'monitoring'?	<p>NZQA will continue to moderate standards that it is the standard-setting body for. This will be instead of, rather than in addition to, moderation by the WDCs. Where a WDC has taken over standards from NZQA, the WDC will undertake moderation.</p> <p>NZQA will continue its role in programme monitoring and monitoring the moderation activity of standard-setting bodies.</p> <p>NZQA will continue its normal quality assurance activities, for example, External Evaluation and Review.</p>
Are the WDC willing to work with providers to discuss how they see moderation or approaches to moderation prior to implementing?	<p>WDCs are happy to work with providers re what moderation could look like. Providers will be kept in the loop with any changes to the moderation/assurance going forward.</p>
<b>SKILL STANDARDS</b>	
What is different in the new skill standards and why?	<p>The final design of skill standards has not been confirmed and will be the subject of public consultation later on this year (2022).</p> <p>Skill standards will be different from unit standards in terms of how they are defined, developed, designed, and used.</p>



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	<p>Over time, skill standards will replace unit standards as the core components of vocational qualifications. Skill standards will be new, and it may take several years for a significant number to be developed. It is expected that skill standards will include learning outcomes and take a more holistic approach.</p> <p>The public consultation documents will include details about the rationale behind the proposed design of skill standards. Consultation on the proposed rules for skills standards will occur later in 2022.</p> <p>Achievement standards will remain as the New Zealand curriculum-based standards for NCEA.</p>
How should we assess a skill standard...detail by detail or holistically?	The final design of skill standards has not been confirmed. As skills standards are finalised, assessment and moderation requirements will become clearer.
<b>'NATIONAL CURRICULA'</b>	
We know WDC are in the process of developing new 'national curricula'. What is being developed? When will it come in?	<p>WDCs are working with NZQA and the sector working group on 'national curricula' and this is an ongoing development. NZQA will consult across the network on any solutions before they are implemented/</p> <p>'National curricula' will be new, and it may take several years to be in place for a significant number of qualifications. There will be time to transition your programmes if needed.</p> <p>The name 'national curricula' is expected to change.</p>
What happens to programmes using courses rather than units?	<p>Over time programmes will need to use skills standards where they are specified within a qualification.</p> <p>Skill standards may be included in the qualification requirements as part of a qualification development or review process.</p> <p>Providers will be involved in the collaborative development of skills standards and there will be time to transition your programmes.</p>