




Australian Government

Department of Education and Training

National Qualifications Frameworks – Observations from Australia

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Overview

- The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) is a nationally agreed
 - The AQF is about achieving education qualifications – which may or may not have an occupational outcome. Defined occupation outcomes are more common at the lower-middle levels in TVET
 - Established in 1995 succeeding earlier qualifications frameworks first established in 1972
 - Designed to be flexible and responsive for continuous improvement
 - Not sector – nor discipline specific
 - AQF qualifications:
 - must meet the required legislated standards
 - are issued only by government authorised organisations
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Why do we have an AQF?



Why do we have an AQF?

- Qualifications are recognised across Australia
 - Consistency in outcomes for each qualification type
 - Supports national standards in education and training
 - Is central to ensuring that qualifications will enable learners to meet the standards expected by industry
 - Communicates what Australian qualifications mean
 - Facilitates mobility of learners and workers
 - Enables international engagement on qualifications and learning outcomes
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Current status

- Reviewed over 2009-2011 with current AQF agreed in 2012 for full implementation from 1 January 2015
 - Managed by the Australian Government with agreement of the State and Territory governments
 - International engagement brings attention to differences and questions of intended meanings
 - Current discussions on disaggregated learning and micro-badging / MOOCs may bring a focus on AQF
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Lessons learnt

- Clarity re: the problem to be solved – the AQF is one piece of a system
- Consult, consult, consult
- Invest in training / professional development
- Cyclical plans for review
- Taking a long term / whole of system view
- Managing expectations of what an NQF delivers

