

Quality assuring assessment in the New Zealand Qualifications System

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Quality Assurance for Qualifications Systems
Bangkok, Thailand



NEW ZEALAND **QUALIFICATIONS** AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

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The New Zealand tertiary education context

- Population of 4.5 million
 - Diverse
 - Export-led
 - Globalised
- 
- 30% hold tertiary education qualification
 - 63% hold a Bachelors Degree or higher
 - Wide range of tertiary education organisations
 - university, polytechnic, private, industry training, wānanga



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The New Zealand Qualifications Framework

Designed to optimise recognition of educational achievement and its contribution to New Zealand's economic, social and cultural success.

- Includes all qualifications – vocational and academic
- A focus on outcomes
- Ten levels, increasing in complexity
- Recognises indigenous knowledge
- Provides the basis for integrated tertiary education system



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Qualification types and levels

Level	Qualification Types	
10	Doctoral Degree	
9	Master's Degree	
8	Postgraduate Diplomas and Certificates, Bachelor Honours Degree	
7	Bachelor's Degree, Graduate Diplomas and Certificates	
6 5	Diplomas	
4 3 2 1	Certificates	

Qualifications listed on the NZQF

Qualifications listed on the NZQF are designed to:

- meet workforce and skill needs of employers
- describe the capabilities and competencies a graduate can *do, be and know*
- meet the type definition, level descriptors and credit value
- be delivered flexibly
- pathway to higher qualifications and work

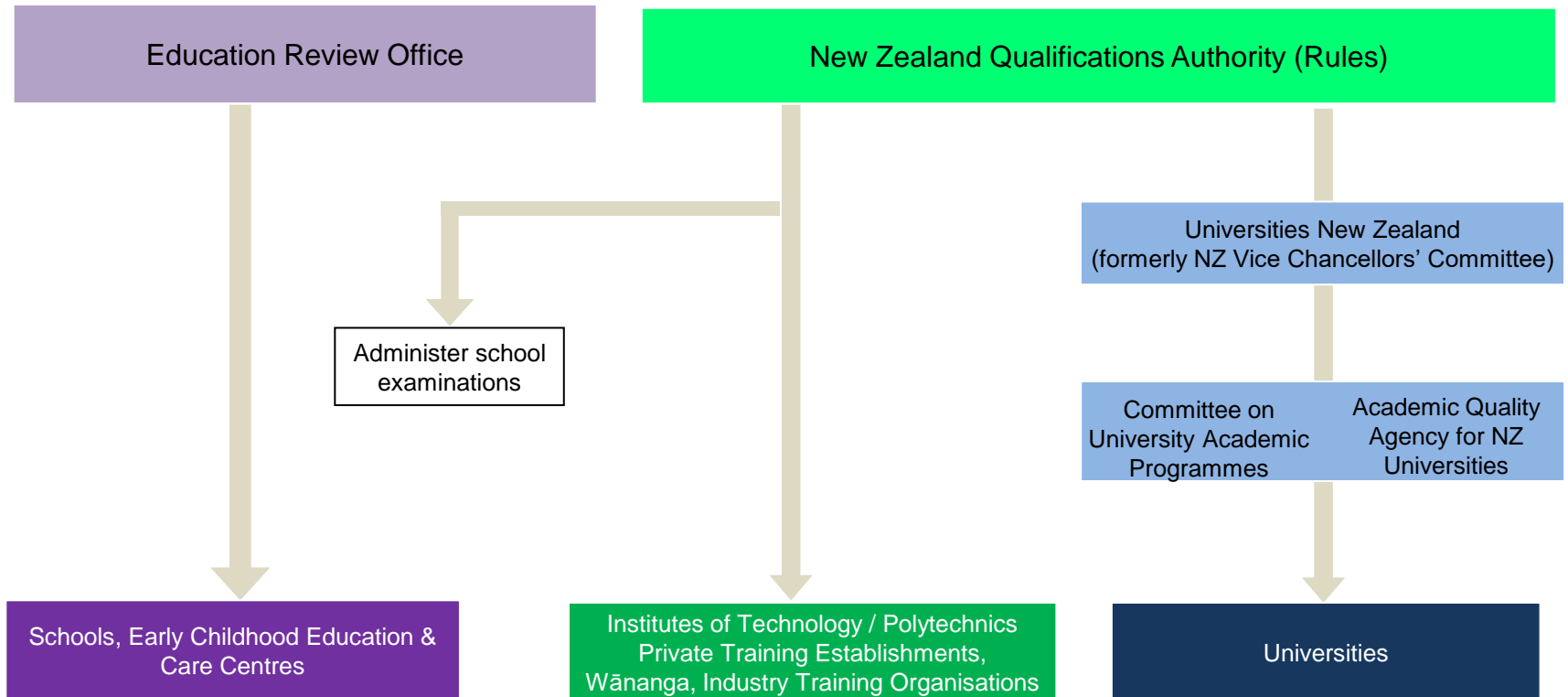


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Quality assuring education in New Zealand



Regulatory context for tertiary education quality assurance

- Under the Education Act 1989 NZQA sets the overarching statutory rules for the NZQF and quality assurance
- NZQA
 - maintains the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF)
 - quality assures New Zealand's qualifications system and organisations for the non-university tertiary education sector
 - recognises overseas academic and vocational qualifications in New Zealand
 - manages examinations for senior secondary school qualifications
- Universities New Zealand has delegated authority for universities



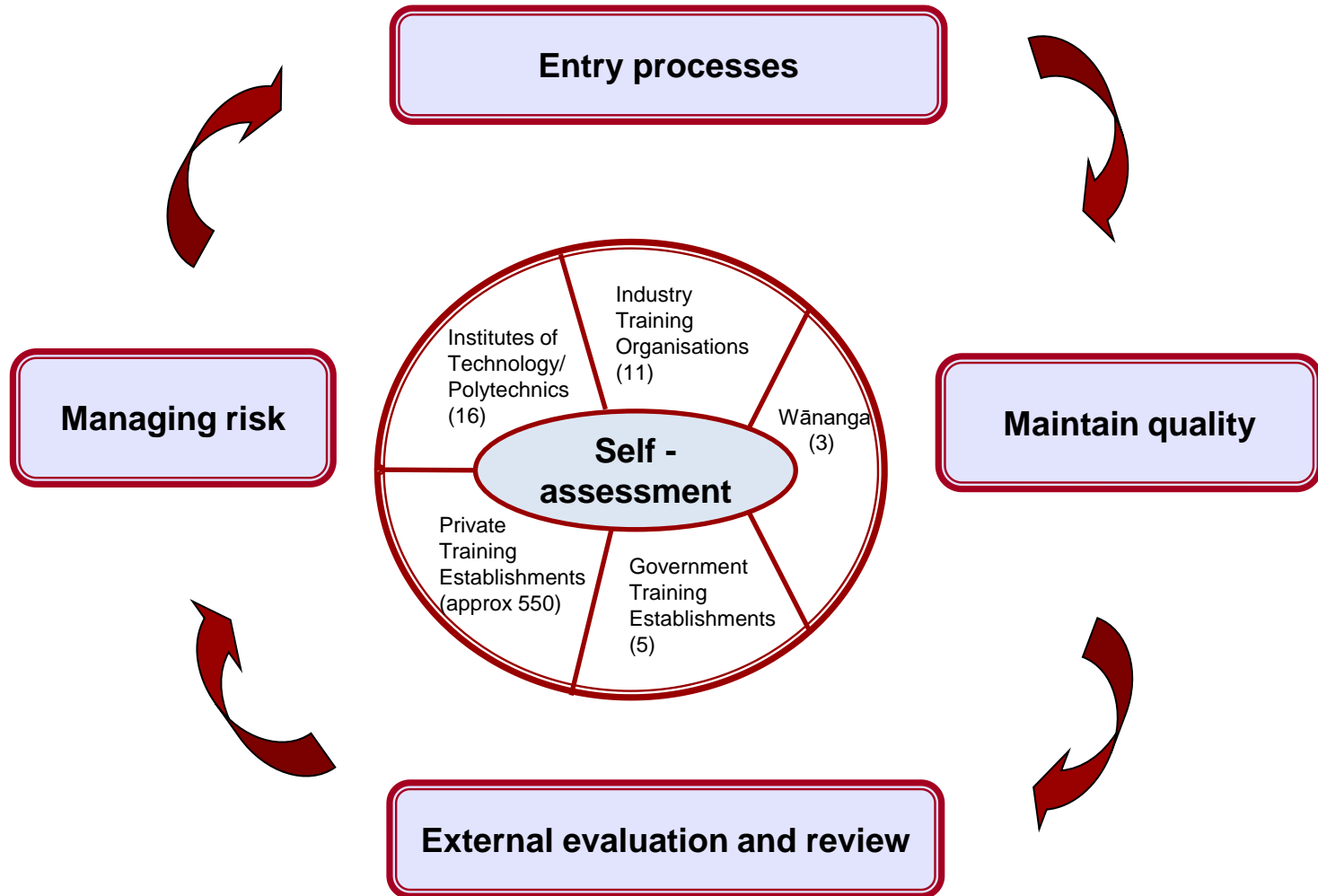
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NZQA's quality assurance framework

Rigorous, flexible, integrated, evaluative quality assurance



Quality assurance of New Zealand tertiary education

This quality assurance framework:

- uses evaluation to reach evidence-based judgements
- focuses on outcomes for learners and key contributing processes
- accountability through organisational self-assessment to drive improvement
- is built on principles
 - High trust, high accountability
 - A practical focus on outcomes
 - Strategic and needs-based
 - Quality is dynamic and flexible



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What is an evaluative approach?

Deciding what makes something “good”?



What criteria will you use to decide – consider quality and value?

What **data / evidence** do you need to demonstrate the criteria?

How will you decide if it is “good enough” to buy?



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Quality assurance of assessment

Qualification jointly developed by education organisations & industry
Apply to list qualification on the NZQF

Education organisation applies for accreditation to deliver an approved programme

Education organisation delivers programme, assesses learners, moderates assessments

Education organisation ongoing self-assessment information used in external quality assurance

Front end quality assurance
NZQA evaluates applications using evaluation questions and performance criteria

External quality assurance of assessment
Assuring consistency, external moderation, external evaluation and review



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Quality assuring assessment in New Zealand

Qualifications listed on the NZQF

- designed to meet industry and community workforce and skill needs

Education organisations are accredited to provide approved programmes

- design teaching, learning and assessment activities to meet outcomes

Education organisations conduct assessment

- assessment activities meet outcomes and state the performance criteria to demonstrate achievement of outcomes
- undertake internal and arrange external moderation of assessment

National quality assurance of assessment – standard setting bodies, NZQA

- national external moderation of assessment that is based on industry competency standards
- assure consistency of graduate outcomes for *New Zealand* qualifications Levels 1-6
- external evaluation and review



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Assuring consistency of graduate outcomes

- Quality assurance process to *maintain the integrity of NZ qualifications at Levels 1-6 on the NZQF*
- Education organisations use evidence to show how their graduates meet the graduate outcomes
- Independent facilitator
- **Evaluative** process to produce a professional judgment
- Consistency is *not* moderation



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Moderation

- Assures assessment is fair, valid and reliable
- Learners have met the performance criteria
- Pre-assessment moderation
 - the assessment activity is appropriate to assess the learning outcomes
- Post-assessment moderation
 - the assessment and performance criteria were suitable and interpreted correctly
 - assessors used the criteria consistently and fairly
- National moderation
 - outcomes are assessed consistently by assessors and to an equivalent standard nationally

Future State: quality assurance in a borderless, digital world

New Zealand's qualifications continue to equip learners to succeed in a changing world

- Qualifications relevant, credible, portable and transferable
- Recognise more prior learning
- NZ education delivered on-shore and off-shore is high quality
- Quality assurance is both rigorous and flexible
- Universal Record of Achievement



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Te manu ka kai i te miro, nōnā te ngahere
Te manu ka kai i te mātauranga nōnā te ao

*The bird that partakes of the berry, his is the forest
The bird that partakes of knowledge, his is the world*



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