

# The targeted review of qualifications – introduction to reviews

2013

## Qualifications system – key issues

- System not understood by learners / employers
  - Local / provider qualifications, National Qualifications
- Too many qualifications and duplication
  - Over 6000 in total, United Kingdom, Finland eg 3,455 certificates in 305 Fields (25% in only 10 Fields)
  - No test of relevance
- Unclear which qualifications were available
  - Many were inactive or expired but still listed

- Pathways to further education and employment not clear to students / parents / employers
  - Education, employment, skills/knowledge
- Cost and time to market of qualifications
  - Average \$70,000 per qualifications
- Different quality assurance requirements for National and provider qualifications

## Targeted review package of changes

- Establish the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF) and provide clear information on the availability of a qualification
- Review qualification design, strengthen outcome statements and industry involvement
- Reduce the number of qualifications on the NZQF through mandatory reviews and - pre-development assessment

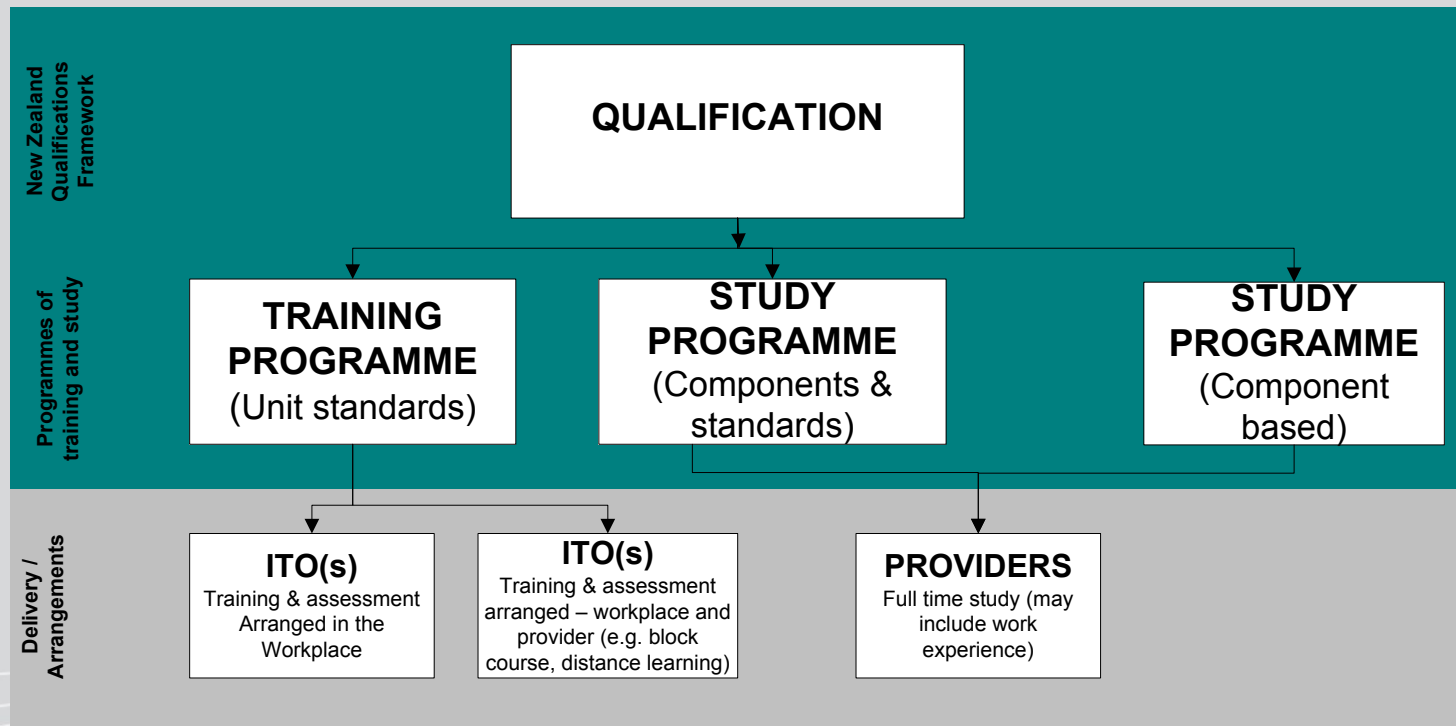
## Principles underpinning qualification design

- Based on needs
- Clear graduate, education and employment outcomes
- Flexibility – separate qualification from programmes
- Collaborative development
- Accountability and improvement

## What a new qualification looks like

- Qualification details e.g. Title, type, level, credits and NZSCEd etc
- Strategic Purpose Statement
- Outcome Statement e.g. Graduate profile, education and employment pathways
- Specification
  - ensures there is sufficient information for programme developers to meet the graduate profile
  - differentiates mandatory and optional conditions for qualification and/or individual outcomes

# Relationship between qualification and programme



# Conducting a review

## Pre-work

- Gather information to determine sector needs and skills profiles
  - workforce development approach
- Establish Stakeholder Profile
- Determine governance and working structures – decision making

## Review phase 1

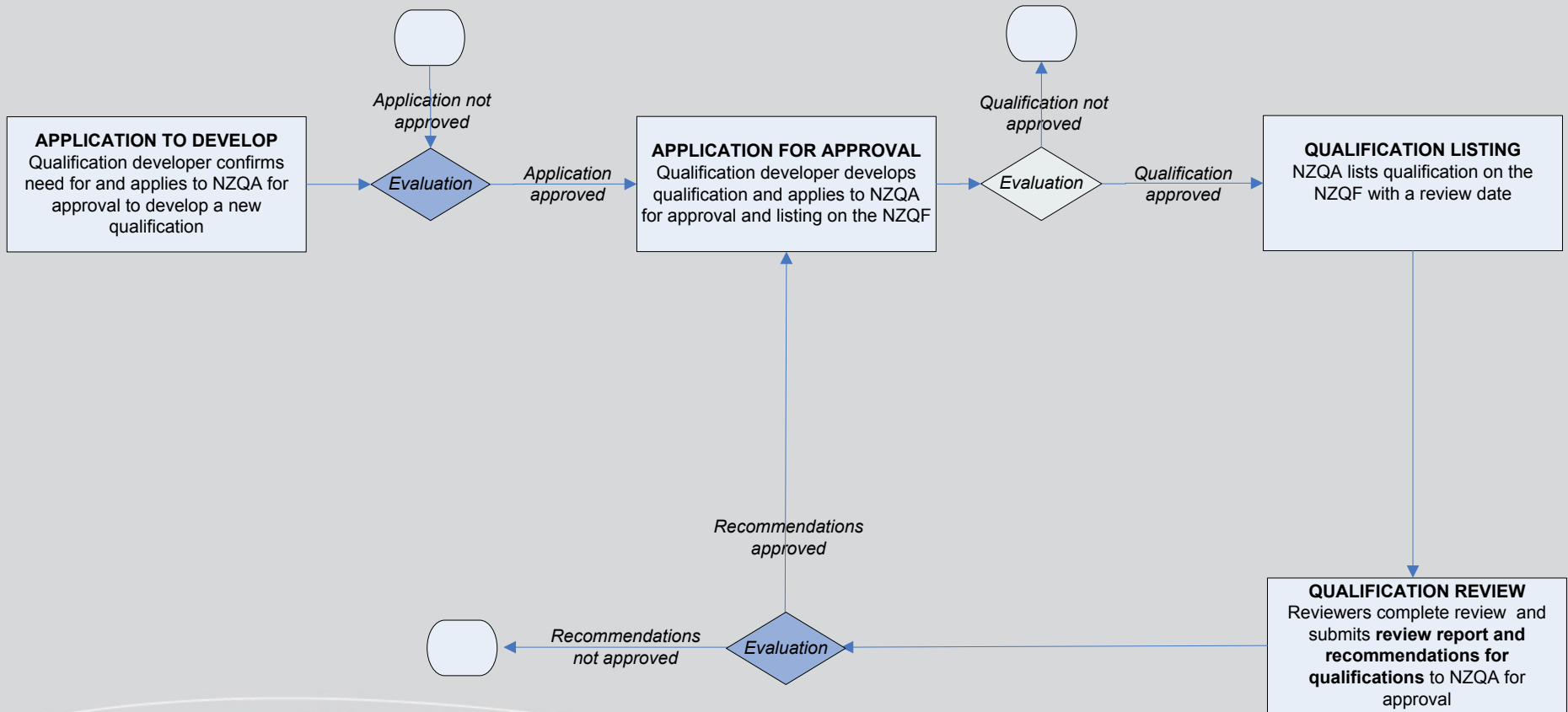
- Prepare and confirm a revised map or ‘suite of qualifications’
  - focus on reflecting needs and outcomes
  - look for commonalities and pathways
- Prepare new qualifications for pre-approval – to be “good enough”
  - sign-off from current qualification owners
- Report on learning and “story” of the decisions made to NZQA

## Review phase 2

- Complete qualification development



**Qualification Lifecycle**  
 5/30/2011




## Challenges in the review process

- Needs – evidence based, step back, take a fresh look
- Planning – 6 month timeline
- Governance
- Consultation
- Communication and information
- Use the guidelines
- Competing needs – funding, immigration, TEO business

## **NZQA assistance**

- Guidelines
- Workshops
- Sector Relationship Managers
- Professional Advisors
- Conversation, information and advice
- Disseminating learning - practice notes



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