The Mandatory Review of Animal Care Qualifications

Qualifications exist to meet the needs of learners, employers, and the broader New Zealand society and economy.

In 2008, the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) embarked on a Targeted Review of Qualifications (TRoQ). This Targeted Review focusses on qualifications at Levels 1-6 on New Zealand’s ten-level qualifications framework. The review was initiated in response to concerns raised by employers, employees and unions about the clarity and relevance of qualifications, particularly vocational qualifications.

The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) activated the review of all agriculture qualifications at Levels 1-6 on 1 December 2011 and looks at qualifications in groups to ensure they meet the overall needs of a particular sector.

The overarching aims of the review are to:

- Reduce the number of qualifications at this level
- Ensure there is no unnecessary duplication of content across qualifications, and perhaps most important
- Ensure that the qualification system is easy to understand, particularly for learners and employers.

In addition, the review will ensure that all qualifications meet the new rules for listing a qualification on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF) that include clear descriptions of:

- the strategic purpose of the qualification
- what a graduate is expected to know and be able to do
- employment and continuing education pathways open to the graduate

No qualification will be retained as it currently exists and all new qualifications will be known as ‘New Zealand’ qualifications.

It is important that anyone with a stake in the outcome of the Review gets involved.

The NZQA-required process is as follows:

1. Develop a needs analysis and the strategic purpose and graduate outcomes of qualifications that will meet the industry’s needs. Submit these to NZQA for pre-approval to develop the qualifications.
2. Fully develop the qualifications, taking into account feedback from NZQA and stakeholders. Submit these to NZQA for qualifications approval.
3. Develop programmes that provide exact details of how the qualification will be delivered and achieved. Submit these to NZQA for programme approval.

For more information, please visit www.nzqa.govt.nz/troq or contact the Animal Care Review Coordinator, Fiona Beardslee, at fiona.beardslee@primaryito.ac.nz, DDI 04 381 7842.