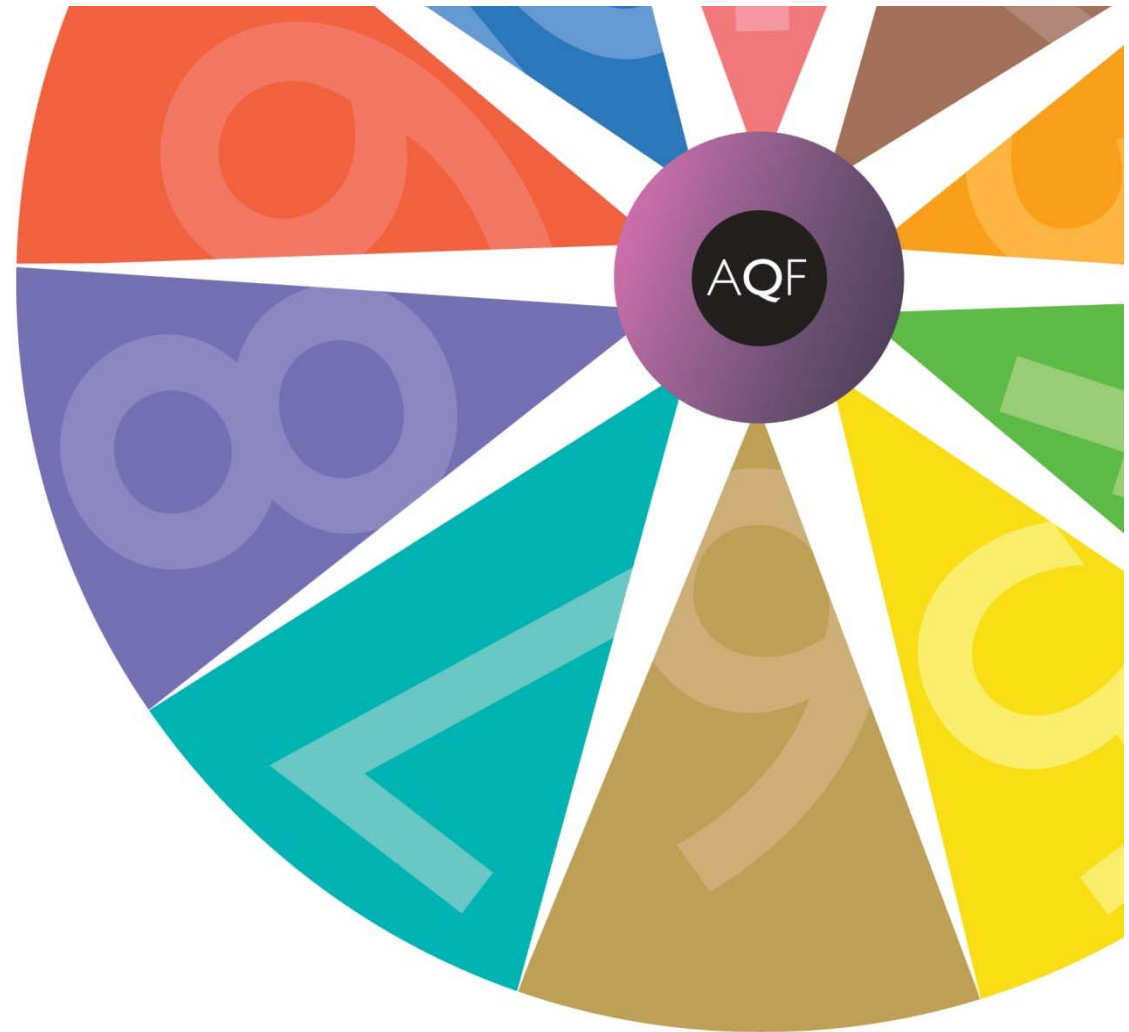


***Quality Assurance:
Cornerstone to
transnational
alignment of
qualifications
frameworks***

**Global Mobility –
Making it Happen
Hong Kong March 2013**

**Ann Doolette
Executive Director
AQF Council**




Australia in a globally mobile world





Global mobility: a phenomenon of 21st century

- Australia is world's third largest destination for international students; graduates remain, return home, or move to third country with an AQF qualification
- Australians are increasingly studying overseas for some or all of their qualifications
- Australia is a large consumer of skilled migrants whose qualifications need to be recognised in Australia
- Australians travel overseas for work; the largest cohort are professionals holding qualifications



Comparability of AQF qualifications
with those in qualifications frameworks
of other regions / nations
will increase understanding and
knowledge of the value of
AQF and foreign qualifications
for those who seek to gain or use
qualifications to compete in the global
labour market

AQF: Australia's Comprehensive National Qualifications Framework



Australian
Qualifications
Framework

Second Edition January 2013



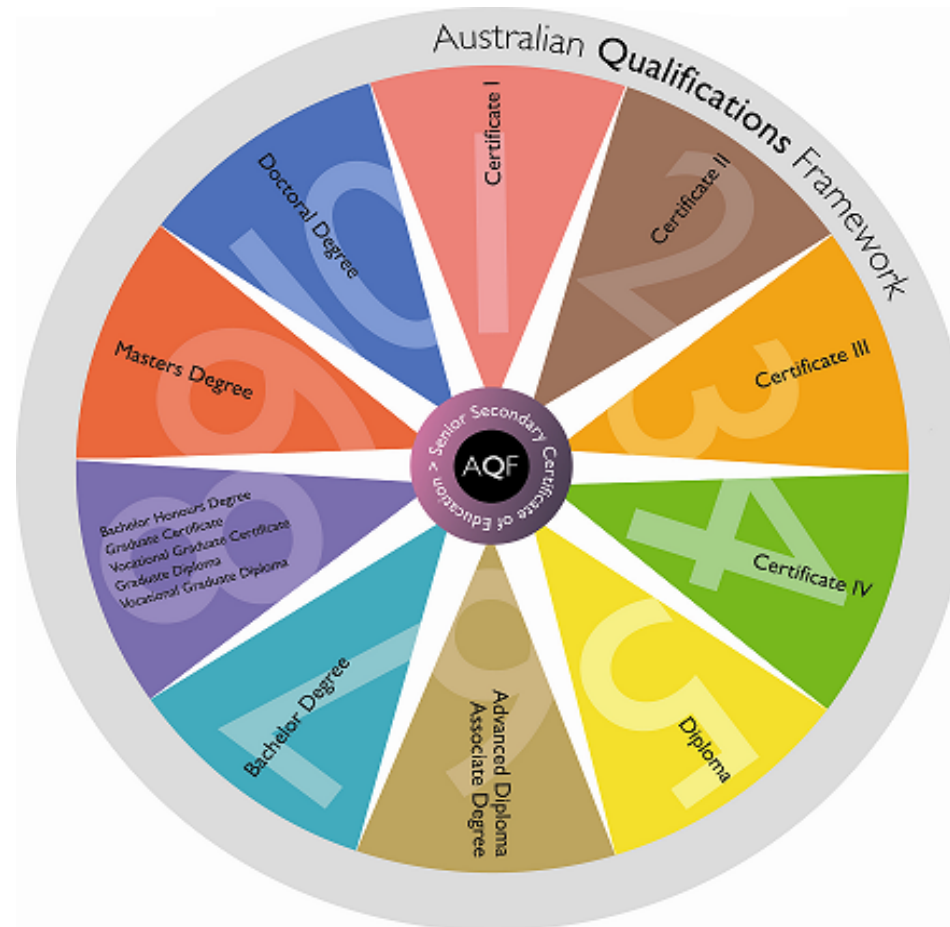


Objectives of AQF

To provide a contemporary and flexible framework that:

1. accommodates the diversity of purposes of Australian education and training now and into the future
2. contributes to national economic performance by supporting contemporary, relevant and nationally consistent qualification outcomes which build confidence in qualifications
3. supports the development and maintenance of pathways which provide access to qualifications and assist people to move easily and readily between different education and training sectors and between these sectors and the labour market
4. supports individuals lifelong learning goals by providing the basis for individuals to progress through education and training and gain recognition for their prior learning and experiences
5. underpins national regulatory and quality assurance arrangements for education and training
- 6. supports and enhances the national and international mobility of graduates and workers through increased recognition of the value and comparability of Australian qualifications**
- 7. enables the alignment of the AQF with international qualifications frameworks**

Australian Qualifications Framework



AQF Learning Outcomes



Knowledge is what a graduate knows and understands. Knowledge is described in terms of depth, breadth, kinds and complexity of knowledge.

Skills are what a graduate can do. Skills are described in terms of kinds and complexity of skills and include cognitive, technical, communication, creative, interpersonal and generic skills.

Application of knowledge and skills is how a graduate applies knowledge and skills in context. It is expressed in terms of autonomy, responsibility and accountability. Context ranges from predictable to unpredictable, known to unknown, routine to non-routine.



AQF Levels



- ① Level 1 – Graduates at this level will have knowledge and skills for initial work, community involvement and/or further learning
- ③ Level 3 – Graduates at this level will have theoretical and practical knowledge and skills for work and/or further learning
- ⑦ Level 7 – Graduates at this level will have broad and coherent knowledge and skills for professional work and/or further learning
- ⑩ Level 10 – Graduates at this level will have systematic and critical understanding of a complex field of learning and specialised research skills for the advancement of learning and/or for professional practice



AQF Qualification Types



Qualification type is AQF terminology for categories of qualifications and includes:

- Senior Secondary Certificate of Education
- Certificates I – IV
- Diploma and Advanced Diploma
- Associate Degree
- Bachelor and Bachelor Honours Degree
- Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma
- Masters Degree
- Doctoral Degree

AQF Policies



The revised AQF includes five compulsory policies:

- *AQF Qualifications Issuance Policy*
- *AQF Qualifications Pathways Policy*
- *AQF Qualifications Register Policy*
- *AQF Qualification Type Addition & Removal Policy*
- *Principles and Processes for the Alignment of the AQF with International Qualifications Frameworks*

AQF Qualification Type Specifications: bringing it together



Quality assurance of AQF qualifications





Higher education quality assurance

- Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency established 1 July 2011 as **national regulator for higher education providers and qualifications**
- Regulates all higher education providers including self-accrediting universities; latter retain authority to accredit own qualifications
- Compliance with **Higher Education Threshold Standards** is mandatory for all providers
- Threshold Standards include Provider Standards (Registration, Provider Category, Course Accreditation) and Qualifications Standards (incorporating **AQF**)
- Standards maintained by Higher Education Standards Panel



Vocational education quality assurance

- Australian Skills Quality Authority commenced 1 July 2011 as **national regulator for VET** providers & qualifications
- Two States retain regulatory responsibilities for providers issuing qualifications locally in those States only
- **VET Quality Framework** is standard for providers; includes requirement to comply with **AQF**
- **Standards for VET Accredited Courses** for AQF qualifications
- National Skills Standards Council accredits (endorses) qualifications in national Training Packages using **Training Package Standards** which include requirement to comply with **AQF**
- Standards maintained by National Skills Standards Council

Alignment of AQF with international qualifications frameworks



- *Principles and processes for the alignment of the AQF with international qualifications frameworks is part of the AQF*
- Supports AQF Council's term of reference to provide advice on international recognition, comparability and alignment of qualifications standards and frameworks
- Overarching principles: alignment will benefit Australia, enhance existing bilateral or multilateral relationships and AQF will not be modified to effect alignment
- General principles: quality assurance systems integral; qualifications frameworks based on learning outcomes and include levels, qualifications & credit arrangements

Determining comparability of AQF with other qualifications frameworks



- *Methodology for determining the comparability of the AQF with another regional or national qualifications framework for the purpose of alignment* developed to support alignment
- Three stage process: initial internal research, formal bilateral comparison, formal bilateral agreement
- Formal stage will commence if contemporary qualifications framework exists and is underpinned by rigorous quality assurance system and no risk to Australian qualifications
- Outcome is statement about extent of broad equivalence between levels and/or qualification types
- Qualification holder can use statement to assist application for work and further study



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