



***Building articulation
pathways across
sectors***

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

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Australian Qualifications Framework



Australian
Qualifications
Framework

Second Edition January 2013





**Confidence in qualification
outcomes supports pathways
within the education sector
and between education
and the labour market**

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





AQF: designed to support pathways

- **AQF Learning outcomes:** knowledge, skills and application of knowledge and skills
- **AQF Levels:** 10 levels of increasing complexity and intellectual demand expressed as learning outcomes
- **AQF Qualification Types:** 14 well-established types expressed as learning outcomes
- **AQF Policies:** integral to AQF including 3 supporting qualification design, delivery and recognition
- **AQF Qualification Type Specifications:** bringing it all together

Quality assurance of AQF qualifications



AQF Qualification Type Specifications



Qualification design builds common understanding of qualification outcomes to underpin confidence and support pathways

Qualifications must be designed to ensure that graduates achieve the learning outcomes specified for the AQF level, qualification type and discipline by the completion of a qualification:

- All knowledge, skills and application must be evident; some may have more emphasis due to purpose of qualification
- Must be clear relationship between level, type and discipline and have a coherent outcome
- Volume of learning must be sufficient to enable students to achieve the learning outcomes
- Must involve professions in developing content if it leads to professional outcome

Qualification pathways



- **Articulation** – enables student progression from completed qualification to another qualification with credit for admission or part of second qualification as part of qualification design
- **Credit transfer** – provides students with consistent credit for components of second qualification based on equivalence of learning outcomes from previous qualification: credit transfer agreements between institutions must take into account comparability and equivalence of learning outcomes, volume of learning, program of learning, learning and assessment approaches of both qualifications
- **Recognition of prior learning** – assessment of student's prior formal, informal or non-formal learning resulting in granting of credit; advanced standing used as alternative

Pathways within education



- *AQF Qualifications Pathways Policy* aims to maximise credit for learning already undertaken and is core part of AQF
- Pathways for students are expected to be transparent, systematic, flexible and fair and can be in any direction
- Pathways can provide credit into and/or towards a qualification
- Providers are responsible for making credit available for students and promoting this through their policies
- Providers are empowered to make decisions about granting credit, but credit given must not impinge on integrity of qualification outcomes or student's likelihood of successful completion of qualification
- Qualification developers are responsible for including articulation pathways between different level qualifications in qualification design

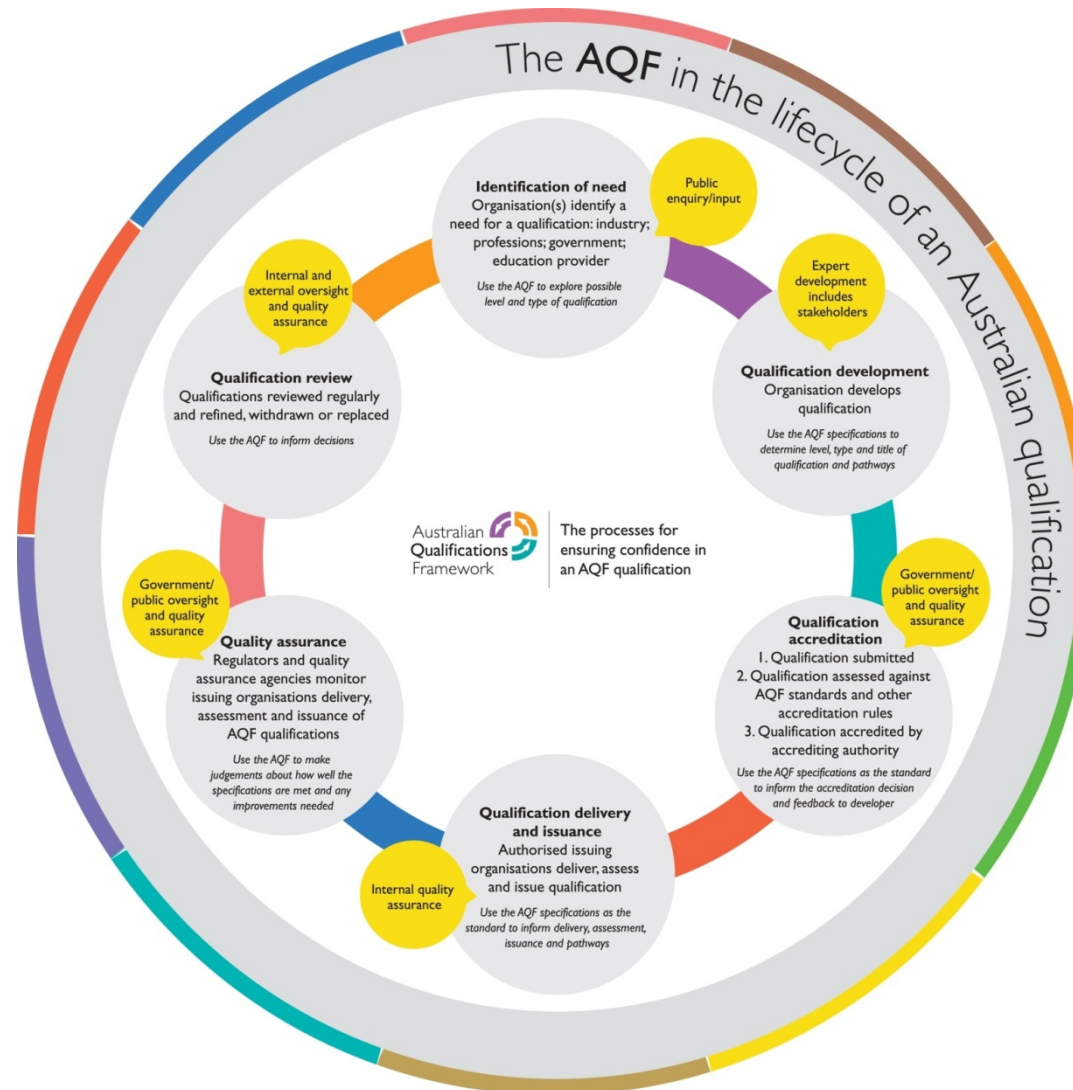
Pathways from education to the labour market



- The purpose of each AQF qualification type is to prepare graduates for work as well as further learning
- AQF qualifications have currency in the Australia labour market; they are reliable indicators of knowledge, skills and application of knowledge and skills (ie learning outcomes)
- AQF qualifications usually required for employment, especially licenced occupations and professional registration, included in industrial awards and used for census data on skill level of nation
- Credibility of qualifications and confidence of employers results from consistent qualification outcomes underpinned by standards of AQF and quality assurance arrangements
- Relationship between qualifications and labour market needs is established through involvement of labour market stakeholders



Stakeholder involvement in AQF qualifications





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