

FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION ACTION GROUP FINAL REFERENCE

Purpose

The NQC has established the Framework Implementation Action Group to oversee implementation of a policy framework to ensure that VET qualifications and products meet the needs of businesses and industry and equip individuals with broadly based skills and knowledge. The Framework Implementation Action Group may make recommendations to the NQC, but does not have independent decision-making powers.

Context

At their meeting of 23 April 2009 the National Quality Council agreed to establish an Action Group to initiate implementation of the proposed policy framework and recommendations in the report from the NQC/COAG Joint Steering Committee on *VET Products for the 21st Century*, pending MCVTE endorsement at their 12 June meeting.

Objectives

The objectives of the Framework Implementation Action Group are to:

- identify further policy issues and implications of the proposed policy framework and recommendations in the report from the NQC/COAG Joint Steering Committee on *VET Products for the 21st Century*;
- develop an action plan and timeline for implementation of the proposed policy framework and recommendations in this report; and
- establish joint working arrangements with the Australian Qualification Framework Council (AQFC) and the National VET Equity Advisory Council (NVEAC).

Outputs

The outputs of the Framework Implementation Action Group are:

1. A report of a review of:

- 'packaging rules as applied in Training Packages to ensure maximum flexibility and consistency within and across Training Packages and Accredited Courses, where both possible and appropriate;
- the use of units from accredited courses within Training Packages; and
- the process for developing and approving Accredited Courses including:
 - how duplication of training package content and coverage is identified and resolved;
 - improving consistency between state accrediting bodies and across the ISCs.¹

¹ Recommendation 6, *VET Products for the 21st Century*, NQC/COAG Joint Steering Committee, April 2008

2. A high-level summary of the outcomes of the review to be developed in collaboration with the COAG Skills and Workforce Development Subgroup, for endorsement by the NQC and be presented at a time determined by COAG. This report will outline how the proposed policy framework will meet the COAG requirement for a more demand and client driven system, and include details of changes to be implemented by the NQC as a matter of urgency.
3. Report on future policy issues and implications of the proposed policy framework including an action plan and timeline for implementation of the recommendations.
4. Progress reports to NQC on the collaboration with the AQFC in relation to:
 - Developing and implementing a common terminology for credit transfer and articulation
 - Improving articulation and connectivity between the university and VET sectors
5. Progress reports to the NQC on collaboration with NVEAC in relation to jointly conducting a review on how best to ensure that equity needs are addressed in the VET system.

Consultation and communication requirements

The Framework Implementation Action Group will consult with the following groups as relevant in undertaking its activities:

- Peak provider bodies
- Peak industry bodies / unions
- State and Territory training authorities and registering bodies
- Industry Skills Councils
- COAG Skills and Workforce Development Subgroup
- DEEWR / AEI
- Skills Australia
- National Quality Council
- Regulators /Licensing bodies
- Australian Qualifications Framework Council
- National VET Equity Advisory Council
- Universities Australia

Governance and Membership

Membership of the Action Group, as per the protocol in place between the NQC and MCVTE, will be approved by the NQC. The Action Group will be chaired by Ms Megan Lilly (Australian Industry Group) and will comprise of the following representation:

- Peak provider bodies
- Peak industry bodies / unions

- State and Territory training authorities and registering bodies
- Industry Skills Councils
- DEEWR

Operational and administrative arrangements

The Action Group will exist to 31 December 2009. The Action Group will meet, either face to face or through teleconference, as required in order to achieve its intended outcomes. All government representatives on the Action Group will meet the costs of being associated with the membership of the Action Group (including travel and accommodation). Industry and client group representatives may be assisted, where necessary, with the cost of attending meetings. The Secretariat function will be provided by TVET Australia.

Budget

An indicative budget of \$555,000 is proposed. The Secretariat will be responsible for administering the budget and providing appropriate reports to the NQC.

Milestones and Timeframes

The Action Group will report directly to the NQC on milestones achieved and on outcomes and specific recommendations at the completion of its work.

Milestone	Timeframe
MCVTE consideration of policy framework and recommendations	12 June 2009
Progress report to the NQC on future policy issues and implications of the proposed policy framework.	25 June 2009
Presentation of draft final report on the review of policy and processes related to Accredited Courses for NQC Action Group feedback	~ August 2009
Draft high level summary report to COAG endorsed OOS by NQC	~ August 2009
Report to NQC on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outcomes of the review of packaging rules as applied in Training Packages and the process for developing and approving Accredited Courses; and • progress on development of action plan and timeline for implementation 	10 September 2009
COAG consideration of summary report	To be advised
Final report to the NQC on further policy issues and implications of the proposed policy framework including an action plan and timeline for implementation of the recommendations.	3 December 2009

Equity

The operations of the Action Group must be consistent with NQC policies regarding equity and will report to the NQC on the way in which the Council's equity operating principles are incorporated into its practices and outputs.