

Technical Overview Group Assessment Chair appointment process

Date:	29 June 2022	NZQA Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In confidence	Report No.	CR24508

	Action Sought	Deadline
Minister of Education	<p>a. Approve the transfer of the responsibility for the appointment of the Technical Overview Group Assessment (TOGA) Chair to the NZQA Board.</p> <p>b. Agree to the extension of Emeritus Professor Gary Hawke as TOGA Chair until October 2022.</p> <p>c. Note that the appointment process for a new TOGA Chair is underway.</p>	15 July 2022

Contact for Telephone Discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	Cellphone	1 st Contact
Andrea Gray	Deputy Chief Executive, Assessment Division	(04) 463 4264	section 9(2)(a)	
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The following departments/agencies have seen this report:

Ministry of Education Tertiary Education Commission Other (specify)

Minister's Office to Complete:

Noted Seen Approved
 Needs change Withdrawn Overtaken by Events
 See Minister's comments Declined

Referred to:

Comments:



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Recommended Action

It is recommended you:

- a. **approve** the transfer of the responsibility for the appointment of the Technical Overview Group Assessment (TOGA) Chair to the NZQA Board.

Approved/Not Approved

- b. **agree** to the extension of Emeritus Professor Gary Hawke as TOGA Chair until October 2022.

Agreed/Not Agreed

- c. **note** that the appointment process for a new TOGA Chair is underway.

Proactive Release Recommendation

NZQA recommends you

- a. **agree** that this report is proactively released as part of the next publication of documents.

Agreed/Not Agreed



Dr Grant Klinkum
Chief Executive
29 June 2022



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

27 / 07 / 2022

Technical Overview Group Assessment Chair appointment process

Purpose

1. This briefing seeks your approval to transfer the responsibility for the appointment of Technical Overview Group Assessment (TOGA) Chair to the NZQA Board as the circumstances that led to the Minister of Education making the appointment no longer exist.
2. This process has been initiated following Emeritus Professor Gary Hawke indicating he would like to step down as TOGA Chair [CR22730 refers¹]. Emeritus Professor Gary Hawke has been the Chair since TOGA's establishment and has made an outstanding contribution to the leadership of TOGA.

Background

3. In 2005, a review was initiated by the then State Services Commission of the New Zealand Scholarship (Scholarship) examinations. The review investigated the variability of results between subjects and the fact that relatively few Scholarships were awarded in the 2004 Scholarship examinations.
4. As recommended by the review, two external advisory groups, the Scholarship Technical Advisory Group (STAG) and Scholarship Processes Advisory Group (SPAG) were established² by NZQA in 2005. In accordance with the Cabinet approved Terms of Reference, the chair of STAG was appointed by the NZQA Board, whilst the chair of SPAG was appointed by the Minister.
5. In 2008, STAG was combined with another advisory group NZQA had established in 2006, the Technical Overview Group (TOG), and renamed TOGA. SPAG was disestablished in 2011 as the members considered it had fulfilled its role and any remaining functions could be picked up by TOGA.
6. The on-going role of TOGA is to provide independent advice to the Deputy Chief Executive, Assessment, on technical issues related to the assessment of:
 - a. the National Certificates of Educational Achievement (NCEA) (Levels 1-3)
 - b. NZ Scholarship examinations and awards.
7. TOGA members bring a range of relevant expertise in education measurement, psychometrics, and academic assessment. The Group provides expert advice to assist NZQA to ensure validity, reliability, and consistency in national assessment for students.
8. The Group has comprised eight to nine members for most of the period since its establishment. There is no prescribed number of members.
9. The NZQA Board appoints all TOGA members except the Chair. The Chair is appointed by the Minister of Education³. The Chair and Members are appointed for a term of three years and can be reappointed at the discretion of the Minister of Education and the NZQA Board.

Transferring the appointment of the Chair from the Minister of Education to the NZQA Board

10. TOGA does not hold any statutory functions; any recommendations for changes to New Zealand Scholarship need to be endorsed by the NZQA Board and approved by the Minister.

¹ In Confidence NZQA Fortnightly Report to the Minister of Education for the period 1 September 2021

² STAG and SPAG were established by NZQA in accordance with recommendations agreed to by Cabinet [CAB Min (05) 11/2 paras 34 and 35 refers] in 2005.

³ In 2008, when TOGA was established, the advice provided to the Minister was that the chairs of SPAG and STAG were both Ministerial appointments, and hence also the chair of STAG's replacement, TOGA.

11. As we believe the circumstances and considerations that led to the establishment of SPAG and STAG in 2005 and which also led to asking the then Minister to appoint the chair of TOGA no longer exist, we propose that the responsibility for the appointment of the TOGA Chair be transferred from the Minister of Education to the NZQA Board. The NZQA Board is agreeable to taking on this responsibility, should the Minister agree.

Extension of Emeritus Professor Gary Hawke as Chair

12. In 2021, we advised you that the TOGA Chair, Emeritus Professor Gary Hawke, indicated to us that he wishes to retire from the position in 2022. We have commenced the appointment process for a new TOGA chair with expressions of interest being sought from universities and wānanga and through TOGA members for potential candidates. We intend to identify a preferred candidate by September.
13. The current timetable requires an extension of Emeritus Professor Gary Hawke as TOGA Chair until October 2022.
14. At its May meeting, the NZQA Board approved Emeritus Professor Gary Hawke becoming a member of TOGA until the end of January 2023 to support the transition of the new Chair.