

22 September 2022

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your request of 25 August 2022, under the Official Information Act 1982, for the following information:

On August 1st 2022, during an information Skill Standard online Information Session starting at 10am, hosted by the NZQA RoVE Team, we were first informed of a significant change that NZQA had already decided on. This information will affect our current business model, and our future plans under our overhead NZQA approved provider Evolution school of beauty and massage, to whom we are sub-contractors, and approved to provide the said existing micro credential under. This information blind-sided us, and the actual owner of the micro credential, which is Lorna Clowes. (Director of Evolution school)

*Subsequently on August 2nd we received information (through our own inquiry) that NZQA is also officially adding a third option namely: **"(c) where another NZQA recognised TEO will be able to apply to NZQA for Accreditation to deliver another TEO' micro-credential"**. Again, this has not been submitted to industry stakeholders for discussions, we are unaware of how this will work, what restrictions and securities will be put in place by NZQA, and how this will be workable (in policy and principle) to our existing offerings and future ones. Questions are:*

- 1. What process what conducted by the NZQA Rove team, and or NZQA prior to the August 1st 2022 release of the outcome, including information sent to, and consultation sought by NZQA to existing providers of the micro credentials on the NZQA framework?*
- 2. What entitles NZQA to take ownership of any micro credentials that may have been written after the 1st August 2022 date, and might in future, with no notice including those, if any, in consultation, or review stages with the NZQA. (for example we have one under construction and being reviewed now that was lodged prior to August 1st, but it is not finalised, so does this mean NZQA can seek to own this too?)*
- 3. What obligation does NZQA have, if any, and, or provide availability to outsource paid contractor tenders to developers of micro credentials in future?*
- 4. What reassurances does NZQA legally need to provide the stakeholders (current owners of, and future writers of micro credentials) of their protection over IP (intellectual properties) of their existing and future micro credentials?*

What process what conducted by the NZQA Rove team, and or NZQA prior to the August 1st 2022 release of the outcome, including information sent to, and consultation sought by NZQA to existing providers of the micro credentials on the NZQA framework?

The intent of RoVE is to create a vocational education system that is ready for a fast-changing future of skills, learning, and work. You can find out more information here:

<https://www.tec.govt.nz/rove/reform-of-vocational-education/>

NZQA is working to ensure that the design of qualifications and credentials supports the overall intent of RoVE. We previously sought views on simplifying New Zealand qualifications and other credentials, including the role of micro-credentials. The consultation on resources can be found here: <https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/providers-partners/rove/consultation-resources>.

The webpage provides links to background information, consultation documents and a summary of feedback received. The summary of feedback provides information on the total number of responses and the level of support for the proposed options.

Please note that the legislative changes were also consulted on by the Ministry of Education and were subject to a Select Committee process.

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The Education and Training Act 2020 allows NZQA to approve the content of micro-credentials, accredit institutions to provide micro-credentials, and requires that NZQA list approved micro-credentials on the Qualifications and Credentials Framework (QCF). There is no intention that NZQA will own micro-credentials.

What obligation does NZQA have, if any, and, or provide availability to outsource paid contractor tenders to developers of micro credentials in future?

NZQA does not contribute to the cost of developing micro-credentials. Should you wish to apply for funding the Qualification Development Fund managed by the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) supports the development of micro-credentials. Information is available at <https://www.tec.govt.nz/funding/funding-and-performance/funding/fund-finder/qualification-development-fund>.

What reassurances does NZQA legally need to provide the stakeholders (current owners of, and future writers of micro credentials) of their protection over IP (intellectual properties) of their existing and future micro credentials?

NZQA must list on the New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework (NZQCF) all qualifications and micro-credentials that it has approved in accordance with the rules made under the Education and Training Act 2020. The information required to list a micro-credential on the NZQCF will be publicly available. However, the listing information for the micro-credential is the high-level information such as the title, credit value, level, and any standards used, which would not compromise the intellectual property rights of micro-credential developers. To be accredited for a listed micro-credential, the provider would need access to the detailed content of the approved micro-credential, which would require them to contact the organisation with approval. Should a provider wish to use your teaching and assessment materials they would have to seek your permission.

The listing information will be set out in NZQA rules. Public consultation on these rules will start in September 2022 and will be available on this webpage: <https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/consultations-and-reviews>. You may wish to make a submission.

As part of the commitment to open and transparent government, NZQA is proactively releasing responses to Official Information Act requests which are of public interest. NZQA intends to publish its response to this request on its website with the next proactive release of information. Your name and contact details will be removed before publication.

If you require further assistance or believe we have misinterpreted your request, please contact Elizabeth Templeton in the Office of the Chief Executive, email elizabeth.templeton@nzqa.govt.nz or telephone (04) 463 3339.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to lodge a complaint with the Office of the Ombudsman at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz. You can also telephone 0800 802 502 or write to the Ombudsman at PO Box 10152, Wellington, 6143.

Nāku nā



Dr Grant Klinkum
Pouwhakahaere/Chief Executive