

## Qualification Title: New Zealand Certificate in Youth Work (Level 3)

Qualification number: 2448

Date of review: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

This report refers to graduates awarded this qualification prior to: 31 December 2019

**Final decision on consistency of the qualification: National consistency is confirmed**

### Threshold:

The threshold to determine sufficiency with the graduate profile was determined as evidence that the graduate can:

- demonstrate their commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi in their interactions with young people, their families and whanau, and apply their knowledge of positive youth development frameworks to support the social and cultural aspirations of Māori and Pasifika people
- actively engage with their local communities and apply their knowledge of strength-focused strategies to participate in and to contribute to the development of positive youth development projects that encourage youth participation and support young people to achieve their goals.

Note that this threshold statement is a considerable expansion on that in the previous consistency review (2016) when just one small cohort had completed the qualification. The expanded statement is now felt to better reflect the strategic purpose and under-pinning philosophy of the qualification.

### Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

The following education organisations have been found to have sufficient evidence.

| MOE Number | Education Organisation                       | Final rating |
|------------|--|--------------|
| 8144       | Community Support Services ITO (Careerforce) | Sufficient   |

### Introduction

This 40 credit Level 3 qualification is an entry-level qualification for new or potential entrants into the youth work sector. It is designed to provide the sector with people who have the operational and theoretical knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to work in entry level roles with youth under supervision. It is either the first step in a suite of qualifications at Levels 3,4 and 6 or a route to continuing study in related fields.

Between 2016 and 2019, there have been 601 graduates of the programme. Of these almost half (279) have been Gateway students, usually (but not exclusively) in Year 13 of High School. All learners graduated through one TEO, the Community Support Service ITO (Careerforce).

## **Final Consistency Review Report**

Youth work is a very broad sector, working with young people across an age range of 10-24 in a wide variety of contexts ranging from faith-based organisations and cultural groups, through sporting and educational organisations to the justice system. Youth workers are often on short term contracts due to the precarity of funding within the sector. It is common for them to hold multiple part-time contracts. Typically, they are passionate about the work they do.

### **Evidence**

The education organisation provided a range of evidence to demonstrate that their graduates met the graduate profile outcomes.

The criteria used to judge the evaluation question were:

- The nature, quality and integrity of the evidence presented by the education organisation
- How well the organisation has analysed, interpreted and validated the evidence, and used the understanding gained to achieve actual or improved consistency
- The extent to which the education organisation can reasonably justify and validate claims and statements relating to the consistency of graduate outcomes.

Evidence included: programme development documentation, examples of moderation practice, employer and graduate surveys, workplace advisor feedback, and the 2017 EER report for the ITO. Evidence was also provided of consultation with employers and Ara Taiohi (the peak body for youth development) during the reviews of this and related higher qualifications.

### **How well does the self-assessment and supporting evidence provided by the education organisation demonstrate that its graduates match the graduate outcomes at the appropriate threshold?**

Evidence of positive extensive and continuing interaction with both employers and the youth workers membership body (Ara Taiohi) was strong, as was evidence of regular and effective moderation practice.

Overall, the self-assessment and supporting evidence supplied by the organisation was found sufficient and demonstrates that their graduates meet the graduate outcomes at the determined threshold.

### **Special Focus** (includes special focus on a strand or outcome)

There was no special focus in this review.

### **Examples of good practice**

Examples of good practice included effective and systematic pre- and post-assessment moderation processes. There is strong liaison with workplaces and continuing review of programme content and delivery.

Careerforce has an effective partnership relationship with Ara Taiohi, the peak membership body for youth workers. This actively fosters continuing dialogue about youth work qualifications.

### **Issues and concerns**

Conventionally administered on-line surveys of either employers or graduates in this industry do not generate sufficient response rates to provide robust evidence that graduate profile outcomes are being met.

## **Final Consistency Review Report**

### **Recommendations to Qualification Developer**

The qualification was extensively reviewed in 2019, with a more explicit focus on strength-based strategies for youth development. It was noted that priorities within the sector are continually changing, especially around the impact of digital technology on youth and the particular needs of refugees and migrants.

This requires continuing programme review in partnership with the sector. That will, in turn, inform the next review of this qualification. Presently work is being undertaken on the development of new unit standards on Te Tiriti, Mana Taiohi (the updated youth development strategy) and cyber-safety, while there are proposals for micro-credentials at Level 4 that will supplement this and higher-level qualifications.