

3 June 2010

Max Maddison
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Dear Max

Role of the Ministry of Education in relation to ITO developed standards

Thank you for your email of 20 May 2010 concerning the role of the Ministry of Education in relation to Industry Training Organisation (ITO) developed standards.

I would like to reassure you that ITO developed unit standards have a place in senior secondary schools programmes and will continue to count towards NCEA and ITO developed qualifications.

The document that you refer to receiving was a draft discussion document, and following a meeting between the Industry Training Federation, Ministry of Education (MoE) and New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA), it was agreed that the document would not be progressed; rather the three organisations would work on a strategic approach to developing clearly articulated Secondary/Industry pathways.

A process for managing duplication and proliferation of standards that are designed specifically for use in secondary schools will be developed once the strategic framework is in place.

All standard setting bodies (SSBs) are required to develop unique standards (ie standards that do not duplicate others). Therefore, whenever there is a concern about duplication, the developer SSB is asked to consult with the SSB with a similar registered standard with a view to avoiding the registration of multiple standards that recognise the same outcome.

If ITOs develop standards specifically for secondary schools, and those standards recognise the same outcomes as MoE developed standards, ITOs are asked to discuss the matter with the MoE to help determine whether the ITO standards do in fact duplicate MoE ones. This is standard practice. All SSBs are required to consult with others if duplication issues arise.

NZQA will continue to support initiatives that both motivate and provide opportunities for students to gain credible and robust qualifications both at school and in tertiary and workplace settings.

Yours sincerely



Linda Glogau
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