

**Australian**

**Qualifications *Framework***

**Australian  
Qualifications Framework:  
A Global Context**

**ATEM**

**Western Australia**

**July 2010**

**Australian**

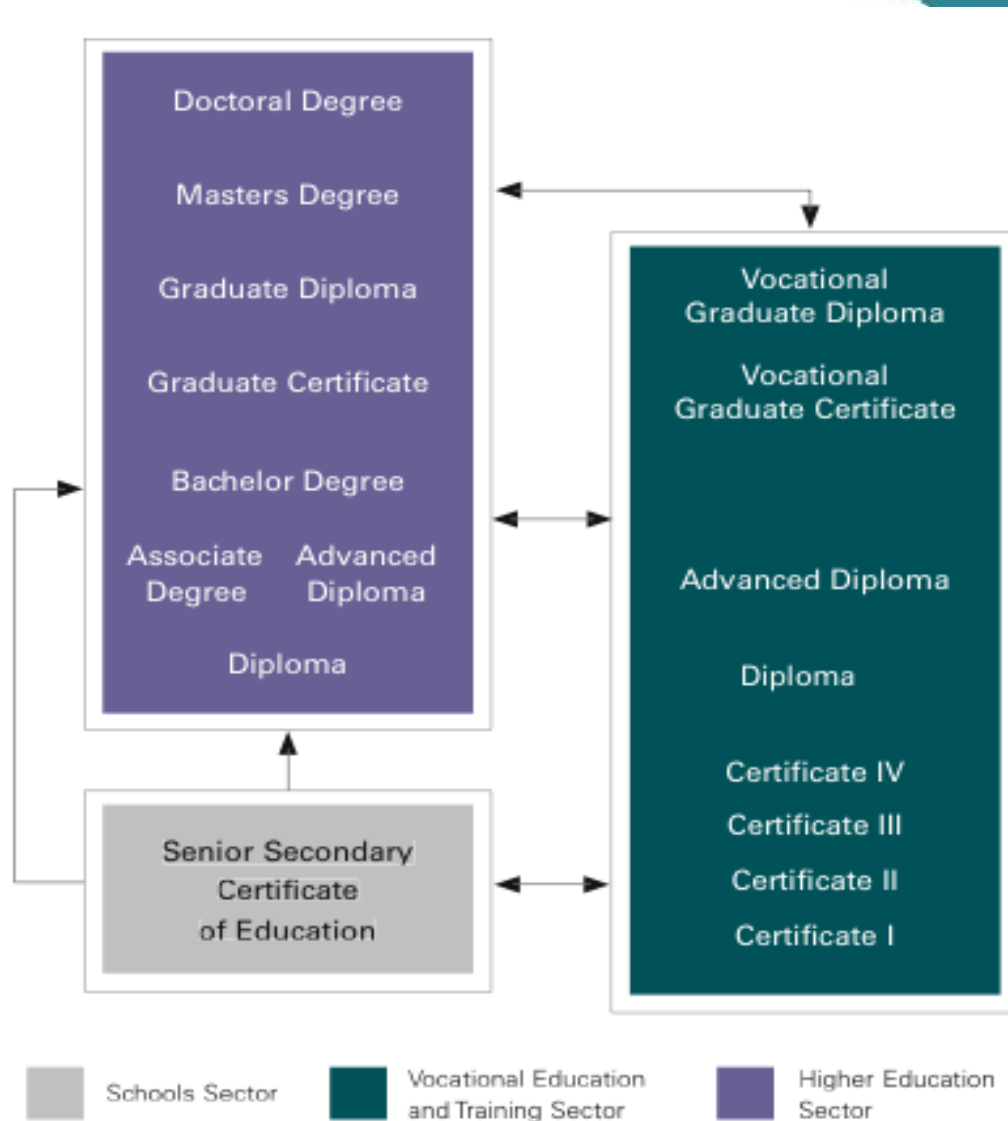
**Qualifications *Framework***

**Ann Doolette  
Executive Director  
AQF Council**

# *Quality is important*

- The AQF underpins the quality of Australian qualifications
- Quality is fundamental to the Australian education and training system
- Quality is part of the Australian brand
- It is important nationally and important for our international student market

# AQF Qualifications



# *Qualification contribute to advancement of economy society & individuals*

Australia has ambitious targets for the achievement of qualifications for:

- Higher education
- Vocational education and training
- Senior secondary schooling

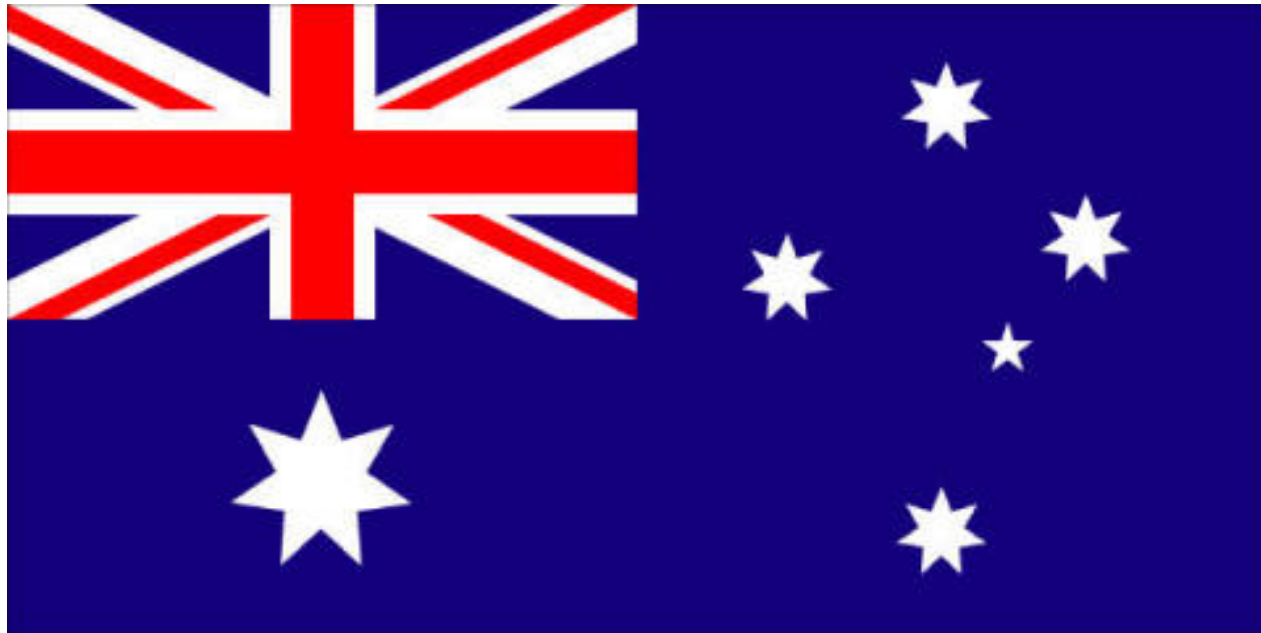
## ***Qualifications are a valuable commodity***

- ✓ ***Formal and official certification of person's knowledge and skills***
- ✓ ***Individual's currency for entry to further education and employment***
- ✓ ***Employers are ultimate users***
- ✓ ***Measurement of nation's stock of knowledge and skills***

# *Qualifications improve employment opportunities*

- ✓ Level of education improves chances of employment
- ✓ Employment of university and TAFE graduates is consistently high
- ✓ Salaries for graduates is higher than others entering workforce
- ✓ Salaries for graduates continue to improve with time in workforce

***Australian education  
operates in global context***



# *Global mobility of students and workers*

- International students seek Australian qualifications
- Overseas qualified workers come to Australia to work
- Qualified Australians work overseas
- Australian students further their studies overseas

# *Overseas workers with AQF qualifications*

- Overseas qualified workers important to Australian workforce
- In 2008 about 1/3 million overseas students enrolled in VET or HE
- Overseas students stay in Australia or move around globe for employment with AQF qualification

# *Australian workers overseas*

- Highly skilled workers more likely to be mobile
- 2/3 of Australians working overseas
  - professionals & paraprofessionals
  - young, highly skills, highly educated
- Reasons for living overseas (OECD) include better employment opportunities and higher incomes

***The AQF is an  
important brand for  
international student and  
worker mobility***

**Australian**

**Qualifications *Framework***

# *Protecting qualifications*

A robust system of government accreditation and monitoring protects qualifications and gives Australia an enviable reputation for high quality qualifications

# *Strengthening the AQF*

Strengthening the AQF project commenced in late 2008 to ensure contemporary framework

- Three phases – design, build, implement
- Identified changes needed to ensure AQF meets current and future needs of qualifications for the global economy
- Extensive consultation with stakeholders
- Detailed consideration of work of other countries

# *A New Architecture*

Design identified revised structure for AQF

- Based on a taxonomy of levels (new) and qualification types (existing)
- Expressed as learning outcomes – knowledge, skills and application of knowledge & skills
- 10 levels of increasing complexity, beginning with preparatory level
- Qualification types constructed as learning outcomes with embedded generic skills
- Notional duration of student learning for each qualification type

# *Improved consistency*

Revised qualification specifications

- Provide requirements for development and accreditation of qualifications to improve consistency in level of outcomes
- For use by accrediting authorities
- To assist student and employer understanding of expectations

A decorative graphic consisting of a thick, curved teal shape that starts at the top center and curves down and to the right, ending in a light blue shape that curves back towards the bottom left. The teal shape is darker and more prominent, while the light blue shape is lighter and more subtle.

# *Increased flexibility and responsiveness*

Policy for adding and removing  
qualification types to respond to  
changing needs

## *Greater protection*

Improved issuance policy

- ✓ Improved information for graduates, employers, institutions
- ✓ Includes testamur, record of results, graduation statement
- ✓ Consistent for all education sectors

# *Better information*

National consumer-focused AQF qualifications register to

- ✓ Improve information and consistency of existing registers
- ✓ Provide better check for bona fides of qualifications and institutions
- ✓ Include institutional record of qualifications issued

# *Pathways for lifelong learning*

Revised policy on qualification linkages and pathways to support:

- ✓ *students moving from one qualification to another as they develop their careers*
- ✓ *students entering qualifications based on prior studies or experience*
- ✓ *choice of qualifications for students especially school leavers*

# *Stronger governance*

- Strong governing body to provide strong guardianship of qualifications (AQF Council)
- Strong national quality assurance arrangements to ensure requirements of AQF are met

# *A picture for the future*

- ✓ *Improved confidence in qualification outcomes*
- ✓ *Enhanced mobility of students and graduates / workers using qualifications*
- ✓ *Increased uptake of skill recognition – turning learning into qualifications*
- ✓ *Ready pathways within & between sectors & between sectors & workplace*
- ✓ *Verification of bona fides of qualifications through national record system*
- ✓ *Improved regulatory arrangements*
- ✓ *Contemporary qualifications mapped against qualifications of other countries*

# *Your views*

*Strengthening the AQF: a  
framework for Australia's  
qualifications Consultation Paper  
July 2010*

Available at [www.aqf.edu.au](http://www.aqf.edu.au)

Written comments due 4 August  
2010 to [aqfc@sa.gov.au](mailto:aqfc@sa.gov.au)

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**AQF website provides information on AQF policies and guidelines**

*AQF Implementation Handbook* can be downloaded from website

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