NZQA’s Role

NZQA roles span secondary and tertiary education sectors. Some of the things NZQA is responsible for include:

- New Zealand Qualifications Framework;
- Quality assurance of non university tertiary education providers;
- Administering the National Certificates of Educational Achievement (NCEA);
- Maintaining Records of Achievement;
- Developing and maintaining some of the qualifications on the National Qualifications Framework;
- Assessing overseas qualifications.
What is the New Zealand Qualifications Framework?

- A database of all current, expiring and discontinued New Zealand qualifications:
  - approved by a recognised approval body;
  - delivered by an accredited education or training organisation; and
  - quality assured.

http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/
Established under the Education Act 1989, the New Zealand Qualifications Authority is a Crown Entity. Section 223 under the Education Act 1989 states:

“Functions of the Authority – (1) The Authority has the following Functions: …

(h) To maintain effective liaison with overseas certifying and validating bodies, in order to recognise overseas educational and vocational qualifications in New Zealand and to achieve recognition of New Zealand educational and vocational qualifications overseas.
Qualifications Recognition

- NZQA’s Qualifications Recognition Services (QRS) assesses international qualifications in order to benchmark them to comparable New Zealand Qualifications.

- The purpose of a qualifications assessment can include: immigration, teacher registration and salary, employment, occupational registration or further study.

- The assessment report gives readers an indication as to what the international qualification most closely compares to in New Zealand.
Application Types

- Pre-Assessment Result (PAR)
- International Qualifications Assessment (IQA)
- Fast-Track International Qualifications Assessment (IQA)
- Refugee Assessments
- Overseas Study Assessments (OSA)
NZQA doesn’t assess:

- Incomplete qualifications, including qualifications that are pending completion or being obtained at the time of application
- General secondary school qualifications
- Informal, professional development or in-service courses
- Work experience which is not a formal component of a qualification
- Qualification of less than 40 credits (approximately 4 months full-time study /400 notional learning hours)
- Qualifications issued by education and training institutions which are not officially recognised in the country of origin, and/or accredited according to the relevant provisions of that country
Original documents required

- award certificates
- transcripts of results, mark sheets or academic records
- evidence of vocational or trades training
- certificate of completion of final year at a general or junior secondary school
- current practising certificate, registration or licence as appropriate

These documents must be originals
Translations into English must be provided by a recognised official translation service
How are full assessments made?

- Evaluators judge the authenticity of qualification documentation and verify this if unsure. Qualifications are verified as required.

- Establish the accreditation status of the qualification and/or awarding body or institution in the country (or region i.e. EU) of origin.

- Benchmark overseas qualifications against demonstrably similar qualifications currently offered in New Zealand.
General guiding principles

Evaluators take into account:

- The function or purpose of the qualification
- Education pathway outcomes (i.e. rights of progression)
- Entry requirements (e.g. matriculation)
- Levels (on overseas qualification frameworks)
- Workload (credits) if applicable
- Key components (e.g. apprenticeship, practicum, dissertation, thesis)
- Learning outcomes (knowledge, skills, abilities)
- International benchmarking resources
- Mutual recognition agreements

for the qualification at the time of award.
Summary

• A particular challenge for recognition work is securing historical and contextual qualification information from other jurisdictions. The APRC and the development of NICs should greatly assist with this.

• Ratification of the APRC is currently proceeding through New Zealand’s parliamentary processes. A contractor has been employed by the MoE to lead this work.