National Qualifications Frameworks – Observations from Australia

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Overview

- The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) is a nationally agreed

  - The AQF is about achieving education qualifications – which may or may not have an occupational outcome. Defined occupation outcomes are more common at the lower-middle levels in TVET

- Established in 1995 succeeding earlier qualifications frameworks first established in 1972

- Designed to be flexible and responsive for continuous improvement

  - Not sector – nor discipline specific

- AQF qualifications:
  - must meet the required legislated standards
  - are issued only by government authorised organisations
Why do we have an AQF?
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- Qualifications are recognised across Australia
- Consistency in outcomes for each qualification type
- Supports national standards in education and training
- Is central to ensuring that qualifications will enable learners to meet the standards expected by industry
- Communicates what Australian qualifications mean
- Facilitates mobility of learners and workers
- Enables international engagement on qualifications and learning outcomes
Current status

- Reviewed over 2009-2011 with current AQF agreed in 2012 for full implementation from 1 January 2015
- Managed by the Australian Government with agreement of the State and Territory governments
- International engagement brings attention to differences and questions of intended meanings
- Current discussions on disaggregated learning and micro-badging / MOOCs may bring a focus on AQF
Lessons learnt

- Clarity re: the problem to be solved – the AQF is one piece of a system
- Consult, consult, consult
- Invest in training / professional development
- Cyclical plans for review
- Taking a long term / whole of system view
- Managing expectations of what an NQF delivers