



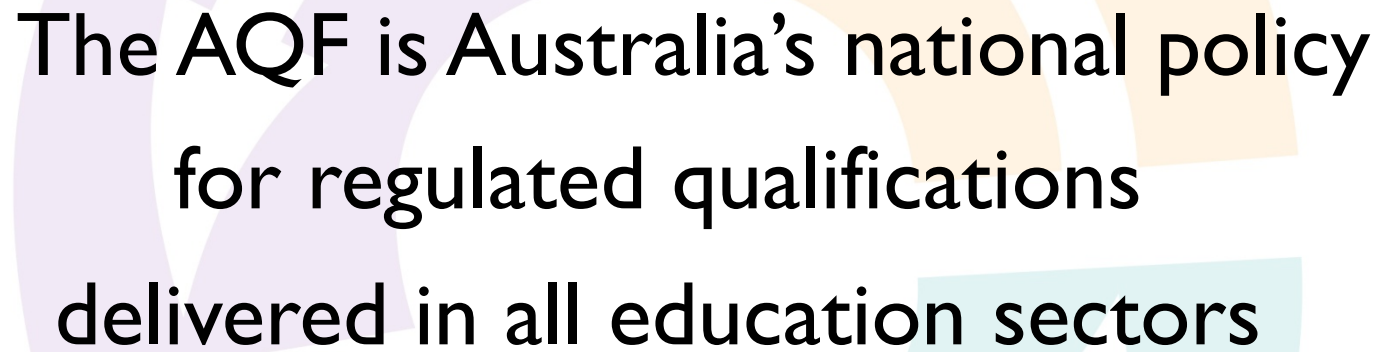
Australian Qualifications Framework





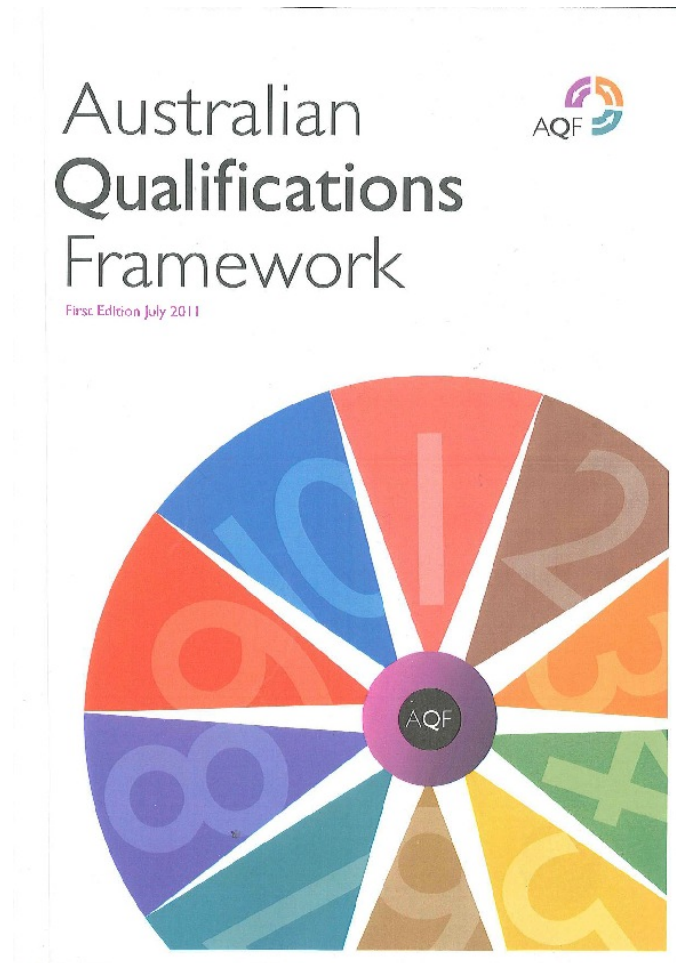
Presented by: Ann Doolette
Executive Director
AQF Council

Australian Council of Deans of ICT
Brisbane, 12 April 2012



**The AQF is Australia's national policy
for regulated qualifications
delivered in all education sectors**

Review of AQF



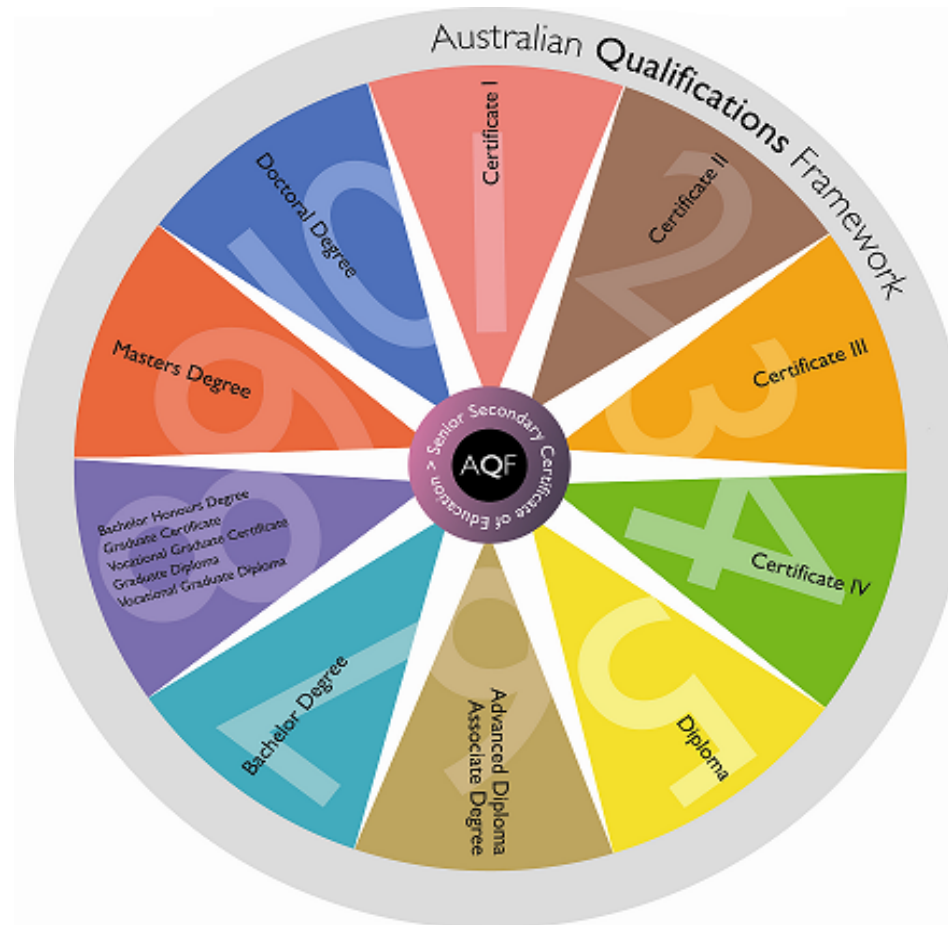
Objectives of the AQF



To provide a contemporary and flexible framework:

1. that accommodates the diversity of purposes of Australian education and training now and into the future
2. that contributes to national economic performance by supporting contemporary, relevant and nationally consistent qualification outcomes which build confidence in qualifications
3. supports the development and maintenance of pathways which provide access to qualifications and assist people to move easily and readily between different education and training sectors and between these sectors and the labour market
4. supports individuals lifelong learning goals by providing the basis for individuals to progress through education and training and gain recognition for their prior learning and experiences
5. underpins national regulatory and quality assurance arrangements for education and training
6. supports and enhances the national and international mobility of graduates and workers through increased recognition of the value and comparability of Australian qualifications
7. enables the alignment of the AQF with international qualifications frameworks

AQF is an integrated policy



AQF Levels



Higher education qualifications located at levels 5-10

⑦ Level 7 – Graduates at this level will have broad and coherent knowledge and skills for professional work and/or further learning

⑧ Level 8 – Graduates at this level will have specialised knowledge and skills for professional/highly skilled work and/or further learning

⑨ Level 9 – Graduates at this level will have specialised knowledge and skills for research and/or professional practice and/or further learning

AQF Qualification Type Descriptors

Masters Degree (Coursework) – Level 9

Purpose	Qualifies individuals who apply an advanced body of knowledge in a range of contexts for professional practice or scholarship and as a pathway to further learning
Knowledge	Graduates will have a body of knowledge, that includes the understanding of recent developments in a discipline and/or area of professional practice; knowledge of research principles and methods applicable to a field of work and/or learning
Skills	Graduates will have cognitive skills to demonstrate mastery of theoretical knowledge and to reflect critically on theory and professional practice or scholarship; cognitive, technical and creative skills to investigate, analyse and synthesise complex information, problems, concepts and theories to apply established theories to different bodies of knowledge or practice; cognitive, technical and creative skills to generate and evaluate complex ideas and concepts at an abstract level; communication and technical research skills to justify and interpret theoretical propositions, methodologies, conclusions and professional decisions to specialist and non-specialist audiences; technical and communication skills to design, evaluate, implement, analyse and theorise about developments that contribute to professional practice or scholarship

Masters Degree (Coursework) continued

Application of knowledge and skills	<p>Graduates will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•With creativity and initiative to new situations in professional practice and/or for further learning•With high level personal autonomy and accountability•To plan and execute a substantial research-based project, capstone experience and/or piece of scholarship
Volume of learning	<p>The volume of learning in a Masters Degree (Coursework) is typically 1-2 years; in the same discipline 1.5 years following a level 7 qualification or 1 year following a level 8 qualification; in a different discipline 2 years following a level 7 qualification or 1.5 years following a level 8 qualification</p>

AQF Qualification Type Specifications



Qualifications must be designed to ensure that graduates achieve the learning outcomes specified for both the level and qualification type

Key points for design and accreditation:

All knowledge, skills and application must be evident; some may have more emphasis due to purpose of qualification

Must be clear relationship between level, type and discipline

Must involve professions in developing content if it leads to professional outcome

Learning outcomes must be coherent and must be achievable

Volume of learning must be sufficient to enable graduates to achieve the learning outcomes at the level





The AQF in the lifecycle of an Australian qualification



How the AQF operates



The legal basis for the AQF is through Commonwealth and State Governments' legislation

All AQF qualifications must be accredited by government authorised accrediting authorities (some providers have authority to self accredit)

Only government accredited providers can deliver, assess and issue AQF qualifications

Providers must meet minimum standards to be accredited and to retain accreditation; accrediting authorities monitor providers to ensure the quality of qualifications issued

Requirements of the revised AQF must be met by 1 Jan 2015



Delivery, assessment and issuance of AQF qualifications

The delivery of learning, assessment of individuals and the issuance of AQF qualifications is the responsibility of the providers authorised to do so through registration by one of the government accrediting authorities or by the universities that are self-accrediting

Decisions on delivery and assessment methodologies reside with the providers – they may occur in the classroom, in the workplace, by distance education, be fast-tracked, or through recognition of prior learning

An AQF qualification cannot be awarded until the graduate has demonstrated the learning outcomes

AQF Governance

AQF is owned and funded by all governments

AQF Council established under authority of national ministers for education and employment

AQF Council's role is to:

- provide policy advice on qualifications

- maintain, monitor and promote the AQF

- support the users of the AQF

AQF Council members include independent chair, higher education, vocational education and training, senior secondary schools, employers, unions, governments, international observer

The logo for the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) is a purple circle containing the letters 'AQF' in white. It is positioned at the top right of the slide, overlapping a large, colorful, abstract graphic that resembles a stylized sun or a fan with various colored segments (orange, purple, teal, yellow, brown) and circular patterns.

Contact AQF Council

Executive Director: Ann Doolette

Enquire: aqfc@deewr.gov.au or +61 8 8306 8688

Visit website: www.aqf.edu.au

Subscribe to newsletter: aqfc@innovation.gov.au