

The comments in the following pages were prepared by the Enterprise RTO Association (ERTO) in response to an invitation to provide stakeholder response to the second draft AQF Council document.

AQF Qualification Issuance Policy

Second draft for consultation

February 2010

These comments are provided in response to the following request for stakeholder views.

AQF Issuance Policy Final Draft for consultation

The AQF Council at its March 2010 approved the new AQF *Policy for the addition or removal of qualification types* and agreed that the second draft of the *AQF Qualification Issuance Policy* be circulated for further comment by stakeholders.

AQF Qualification Issuance Policy: Second draft for discussion

This policy sets out the AQF policy for issuing AQF qualifications and provides the basis for the protection of the titles of AQF qualifications through consistency in their application across the education and employment sectors.

The draft policy was circulated to all stakeholders for comment and was available on the AQF website in September 2009. Feedback was received from 32 institutions and organisations: 16 each from VET and higher education from all States and Territories and a range of national bodies. The direction of the policy and protocols was supported by all respondents and agreement that specifying minimum content to be included on testamurs added to the protection of Australian qualifications. Many comments and suggestions were provided to refine the terminology included in the policy and many of these have been incorporated into the second draft.

At its meeting in March 2010, the AQF Council agreed that the second draft should be circulated to stakeholders for further comment.

The policy mandates that graduates are entitled to receive a testamur and an academic transcript on award of an AQF qualification. Academic transcripts may also be issued at any time during the student's study. The policy also mandates the protocols or minimum information that must be included on the documentation. It also provides direction for the use of qualification titles, abbreviations and postnominals to ensure consistency in their adoption.

In summary ERTOA members have expressed broad support for the draft qualification issuance policy and protocols proposed in the document. ERTOA is pleased that issues raised in our response to the initial draft in September have been substantially addressed.

You will find a few minor comments on the second draft in the following pages.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Butler', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Butler
President
Enterprise RTO Association
March 2010

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Intent and purpose of the policy and protocols

Supported – no additional comments

1.2 Scope of the policy and protocols

Supported – no additional comments

1.3 Users of the policy and protocols

Supported – no additional comments

1.4 Definitions of key terms in the policy and protocols

Modify the definition for the Australian graduation statement to read:

An **Australian graduation statement** is a **non-mandatory** supplementary statement to qualification certification documentation that provides information to enhance understanding of the qualification by students, employers, industry, professional associations and internationally. A graduation statement is issued only on award of a qualification.

Note: Footnote 1 seems redundant. If it is to remain it should read:

The Australian Graduation Statement is currently (2010) only implemented on a voluntary basis in the higher education sector. A phased implementation period for **its voluntary use** in the tertiary sector will be defined.

Modify the definition for the Issuance number to read:

Issuance number is the unique number **that may be** assigned to testamurs to **assist** verification of authenticity.

2. POLICY and PROTOCOLS

2.1 Policy for issuing AQF qualifications

Supported – no additional comments

2.2 Responsibility for issuing, authenticating and verifying qualifications

ERTO A recommends adding the following statement to the end of this section:

'Presentation of an AQF qualification certification document should not be accepted as evidence authenticating and verifying the possession of a qualification unless this has been confirmed via direct contact with the authorised issuing organisation identified on the document.'

2.3 Use of the AQF logo protocols

Supported – no additional comments

2.4 Replacement certification documentation

Supported – no additional comments

2.5 Protocols for issuing AQF qualifications

2.5.1 Testamur

Supported – no additional comments

2.5.2 Academic transcript/statement of attainment

Delete the sixth dot point under “An academic transcript will include the following features:” that reads:

- the qualification testamur issuance number will be included for completed qualifications*

ERTOA has no other additional comments on the rest of the paper.

...End of ERTOA comments