

NZQA CONFERENCE
23-24 September, 2008

THE NEW EVALUATION LANDSCAPE

A conference summary

The new paradigm to replace 'audit' comprises two stages:

1. Organisational self assessment/self evaluation

followed by

2. External evaluation by NZQA

Note: The term '*self assessment*' may disappear as there was a negative reaction to it expressed by many participants.

STAGE 1: Organisational self assessment/self evaluation

Key points

- A prime focus on evaluating what matters – the **outcomes** of teaching and learning and the **processes** contributing to these outcomes.
- **Teaching and learning** are back on centre stage. The compliance focus of the old audit regime is not central.
- There are **5 key self evaluation questions** to guide providers in their own self evaluation

-How well do programmes and activities match the needs of learners and other stakeholders?

-How effective is the teaching?

-How well are learners guided and supported?

-How well do learners achieve?

-What is the value of the outcomes for key stakeholders?

- It is up to providers (TEOs) to identify their own key *outcomes and processes* and *ways of measuring their performance* in relation to these. These will differ from one provider to the next.
- TEOs will make *evidence-based judgements* about their performance in relation to the educational outcomes and processes that are relevant to their organisation. These judgements will form the basis of their self evaluation.

STAGE 2: External evaluation by NZQA

Key points

- NZQA will use provider self-evaluation data to make their own judgements about a TEO's:

-**performance** (*how well the TEO is achieving its outcomes*)

-**capability** (*how well the TEO is implementing changes to improve quality*)

- NZQA will use the self evaluation data from the TEO to:
 - validate the TEO's findingsOR
 - use the key self evaluation questions cited earlier to probe further in order to come to their own judgement about a TEO's performance and capability.

It seems that a NZQA site visit will still be the norm either way.

Other points

Reporting

- NZQA will report their findings against the two stated dimensions:

Performance	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>High confidence</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Confident</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Not yet confident</i>

Capability

- High confidence
- Confident
- Not yet confident

- The outcome of the TEO evaluation will be made *public*. There will be a summary on the NZQA website with findings reported against the 5 key evaluation questions. There will also be a link to a full evaluation report.

Evaluation frequency

- TEOs 'of high confidence' may get 4 years before the next external evaluation. Those of whom NZQA is 'not yet confident' will be subject to more frequent external evaluation. All TEOs, however, are expected to self evaluate on a continuous basis and to prioritise specific areas for self evaluation.

Time frame

- External evaluations will commence from mid 2009. TEOs with audits scheduled at around this time will have an option to go with the 'old audit' regime or to opt for the 'new evaluation' regime.

Cost

- It is not expected that the new evaluation system will incur costs that are significantly greater to those currently being charged.

Resources

There is a NZQA on-line resource centre with draft Tertiary Evaluation Indicators which relate to the key evaluation questions, plus other resources at <http://evaluate.nzqa.govt>.

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