

## FIJI NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (FNQF)

The mandate to develop the Fiji National Qualifications Framework was established through the amendment of the Fiji National Training Act in 2000 and is now known as the Training and Productivity Authority Act 2002.

This amendment resulted in a number of changes in the role of the Training and Productivity Authority of Fiji and one of which is the responsibility to "*develop the national qualifications framework and make provisions for the registration of such training courses or training providers or facilities or qualifications of such category it shall direct, and make provision for the approval of such qualifications, courses, providers and facilities*".

### Purposes of the Fiji National Qualifications Framework

The Fiji National Qualifications Framework is being developed with the aim of achieving the following:

- to put in place a system that will contribute to national economic performance by encouraging the provision of high quality education and training through qualifications that meet the needs to the Fiji economy
- to encourage individuals to progress through the levels of the education and training by improving access to qualifications, clearly defining the avenues for achievement and generally contributing to lifelong learning
- to promote flexible pathways which assist people to move more easily between education and training sectors and into the labor market by providing the basis for recognition of prior learning and current competence, including credit transfer and work and life experiences
- to ensure flexibility to suit the diversity of purposes of education and training
- to regulate the value and characteristics of qualifications awarded in Fiji
- to describe qualifications and the ways they relate
- to assure the quality of the learning and assessment that result in the award of the qualification
- to ensure nationally consistent recognition of outcomes achieved in post-compulsory education
- to regulate the issuance of national qualifications
- to promote national and international recognition of qualifications offered in Fiji

### The FNQF Development Process

Using a six-phased action plan the work on the FNQF began in 2004.

#### *Phase 1: Development of Database*

To ensure the FNQF secretariat has relevant details and information on all key industry and stakeholder members, an industry database was developed.

***Phase 2: Awareness Campaign***

A nation wide awareness campaign was critical to inform everyone about the qualifications framework. Specifically it was critical to make everyone understand the purposes of a NQF, the benefits it will bring to the nation, the implications it will have on education and training in general, the opportunities it will provide for individuals, organizations, industries and the country as a whole and the improvement it will ultimately have on the economy.

***Phase 3: NQF Model Presentation and Consultation***

To create a better understanding and provide the industry and stakeholder members opportunity to find out how a qualifications framework function, representatives from qualifications authorities in New Zealand and Australia were invited to come and present on their frameworks.

Apart from it being more of an information seminar, it also gave the industry and stakeholder members opportunity to discuss amongst themselves the kind of NQF model that would be suitable for Fiji.

It was agreed at this workshop that the New Zealand Qualifications Framework will be used as a reference and model on which the FNQF will be developed.

***Phase 4: FNQF Draft Model Development***

Using the feedback from the workshop in phase three, the FNQF secretariat developed a draft NQF model which was then presented to the industry and stakeholders.

Briefly, the model resembles the NZQF levels in that it will have 10 levels of qualifications and will provide pathways and avenues through which students and individuals can move across sectors and progress upwards through the qualifications ladder.

***Phase 5: The Development of the Fiji National Qualifications Framework***

The project is currently at this stage where the project secretariat is working with Polytechnics International New Zealand Limited to develop the policy framework and other procedures and processes that will enable the qualifications system to function.

***Phase 6: Finalization and Implementation of the Fiji National Qualifications Framework***

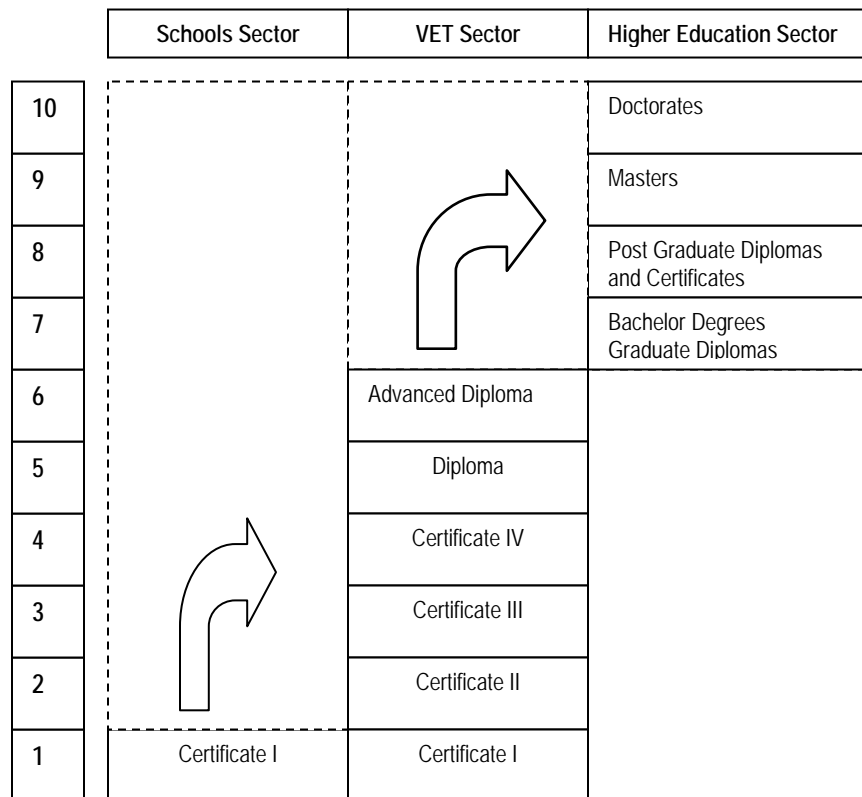
While phase 6 will see the finalization and implementation of the FNQF, on-going development of other related mechanisms such as standards and qualifications development will continue.

## General Overview of the Fiji National Qualifications Framework

To encourage economic development, improve national productivity and reduce poverty, the development of the Fiji National Qualifications Framework is Fiji government's initiative towards the achievement of the above by making education and training and the gaining of quality assured qualifications more accessible to everyone.

In line with the decision of all stakeholders, the structure of the FNQF is depicted below:

Figure 1: Structure of the Fiji National Qualifications Framework



This framework will operate within an overall environment where the approach is to:

- develop qualifications to ensure that they have relevance and value
- determine and recognize achievement
- enable the accumulation and transfer of credits
- ensure the quality assured provision of education, training and assessment services

These will enable the achievement of the purposes of the framework and its intended goals.

The whole concept of the FNQF is illustrated in the diagram below>

Figure 2: Concept of the FNQF Purposes

