



Australian Government

Department of Education and Training

Qualifications recognition in Australia

Systems and support

Liz Campbell-Dorning

Director

Qualifications Recognition Policy

International Mobility Branch

elizabeth.campbell-dorning@education.gov.au

What is recognition?

- Qualifications recognition means assessing if a qualification meets a specific benchmark for a specific purpose
- Benchmarks include:
 - NQFs, RQFs, national qualifications, occupational standards, licensing/registration requirements
- Purposes include:
 - Study, employment, migration



Why is recognition important?

- Improves education and employment participation
- Supports economic productivity and prosperity which builds a highly skilled nation
- Facilitates internationalisation of education, research and workforce



Recognition in Australia

- Decentralised - recognition decisions are made by competent authorities
 - Australian Government Department of Education and Training provides national leadership
 - Competent authorities are those best-placed to make informed decisions for:
 - study
 - employment (regulated, self-regulated or non-regulated)
 - migration
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Recognition authorities

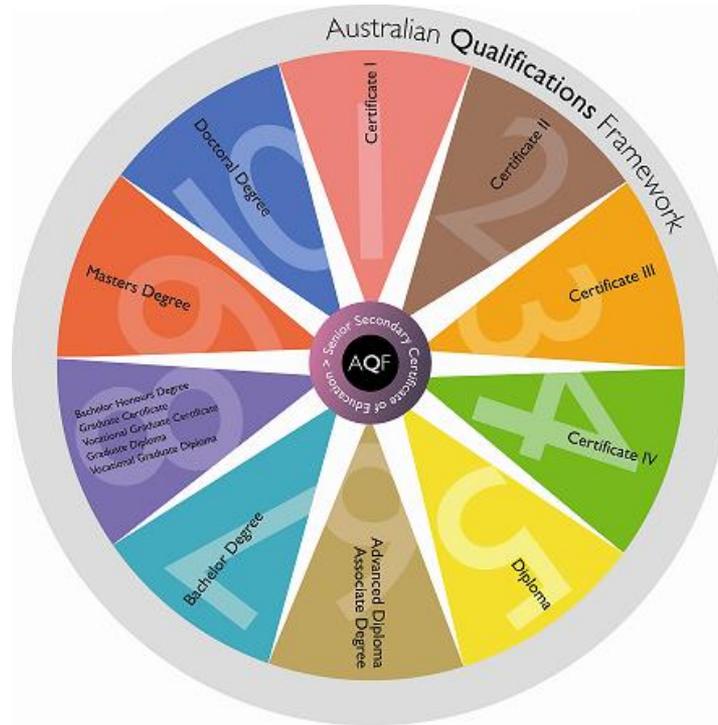


Qualifications Recognition Policy

- The Qualifications Recognition Policy team is Australia's national information centre for qualifications recognition
- Promotes student and labour mobility by supporting the recognition of:
 - Australian qualifications internationally
 - foreign qualifications in Australia
- International engagement on the Australian Qualifications Framework
 - supports referencing of the AQF to other national and regional qualifications frameworks
 - ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework
- Manages Australia's multilateral engagement in qualifications recognition policy and qualifications framework policy



The Australian Qualifications Framework



QRP facts

- Established in 1969
 - 130+ Country Education Profiles
 - Over 5 million hits on CEP Online annually
 - 200,000+ recognition decisions made per year
 - 300% increase in demand for services over past 5 years
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Policy framework for recognition

- UNESCO regional recognition conventions:
 - Regional Asia-Pacific Convention (ratified 1985)
 - Lisbon Recognition Convention (ratified 2002)
 - Revised Asia-Pacific Convention (ratified 2014)
 - Establish guiding principles based on best-practice recognition
 - Comparability rather than equivalence
 - Face-value comparability unless ‘substantial difference’
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Government support for recognition

- Ensuring transparent, coherent, reliable, fair and non-discriminatory recognition practices in Australia
- Recognising qualifications at level unless 'substantial difference' can be shown
- Supporting recognition authorities through:
 - Country Education Profiles
 - Professional development
 - Advisory service
 - Qualification assessments



CEP Online

- Online database of research and analysis of 130+ countries' education systems, institutions and qualifications
 - Information tool to support quality, consistent and timely recognition decisions
 - Subscription-based product with over 7000 users (80% Australian, 20% international)
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CEP Online, cont'd

- Designed to add value to decision-making by providing:
 - **Assessment guidelines:** educational comparability of overseas qualifications to the Australian Qualifications Framework
 - **Education system:** qualitative information about education systems
 - **List of institutions:** comprehensive lists of recognised post-secondary institutions



CEP Online, cont'd

- CEP users include
 - State and territory governments
 - Educational institutions: higher education, VET and schools
 - Professional bodies
 - Migration lawyers
 - Employers: especially multinational corporations
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Professional development training

- Assists recognition authorities in developing recognition policies and assessment skills
- Training is routinely delivered at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels
- Moving to online training modules for CEP subscribers



Advisory service

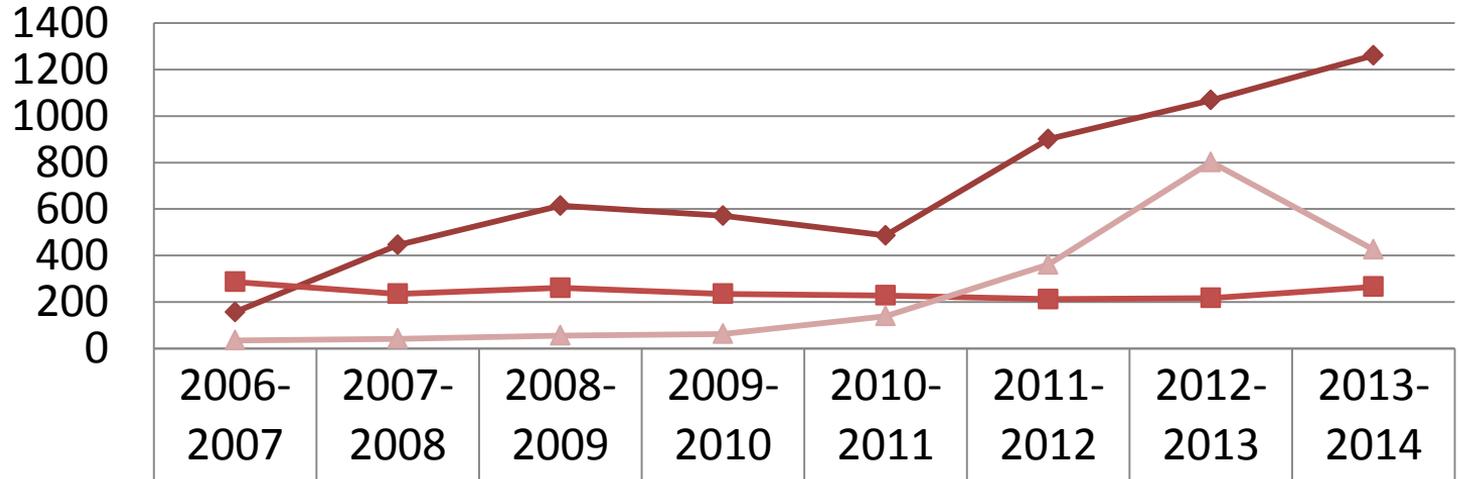
- To minimise barriers to recognition we provide advice to recognition authorities on complex foreign qualifications
 - an email-based service
 - qualifications must not be covered by CEP Online assessment guidelines
 - 20 working day turnaround
 - free service for Australian recognition authorities



Qualification assessments

- Individuals with foreign qualifications seeking recognition can apply to QRP for a qualification assessment
 - For general purposes only (i.e. not for study, regulated employment or migration)
 - Only if no other recognition authority can assess
 - We issue an Australian Government certification of the comparability of the foreign qualification to the AQF
 - Approximately 1500 assessments per year
 - Fee-for-service activity
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Qualification assessment trends



◆ Guideline	157	445	614	571	486	901	1068	1261
■ Non-guideline	287	235	261	235	228	212	217	266
▲ Not assessable	35	42	56	63	139	361	802	426

Summary

- Recognition is challenging work
 - Understanding different education systems, institutions and qualifications
 - Successful recognition requires access to reliable information, transparency policies/processes, timely decisions
 - Qualifications recognition benefits individuals, communities, and national interests:
 - Incentivises mobility by acknowledging value
 - Harnesses potential by supporting participation in work and study
 - Manages differences in education systems while minimising barriers to mobility
 - Directly supports productivity, competitiveness and multiculturalism
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Enhancing mobility

Qualifications
recognition



Qualifications
frameworks



Quality
assurance

