

Australian Qualifications Framework

Australian Qualifications Framework Advisory Board Secretariat
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AQFAB/12

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Mr Roderick West
Chair
The Review of Higher Education, Financing and Policy
Location Code 728
GPQ 9800
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr West

I am writing on behalf of Mr Warren Grimshaw, Chair, Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Advisory Board to the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA), in response to the Review Discussion Paper.

Mr Grimshaw wishes to draw attention to the need to indicate the role of the Australian Qualifications Framework in attainment of the 'seamless' cross-sectoral education environment highlighted as a major objective of public policy by the Review Committee.

The AQF was introduced by MCEETYA in 1995 as a key structure to support nationally-consistent qualifications and learning pathways across the schools, vocational education and training and higher education sectors. It is a national framework incorporating each sector's quality assurance arrangements, including registration, accreditation and assessment, and the AQF Advisory Board has a monitoring function in relation to national consistency of qualifications. Any consideration of options for additional national cross-sectoral accountability mechanisms, such as are outlined in Appendix 9 p 154, would need to take into account the current operation of the MCEETYA framework, to avoid confusing duplication of objectives.

In light of this concern, Mr Grimshaw believes there would be value in a briefing session with the Review Committee to identify the key requirements for augmented cross-sectoral quality assurance mechanisms and to consider the role and function of the AQF in this context.

In addition to briefing materials already provided, I would be happy to supply the Committee with further detailed information as required.

I look forward to following-up on details of a consultation session.

Yours sincerely

Judith Forsyth
Executive Officer, AQFAB