



Introducing the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

Education resources and services for kindergartens and schools

Quality assuring VET

Vocational education and training (VET) in schools provides students with work-related knowledge and skills. There are hundreds of VET programs available, covering most industries and occupations.

The QCAA:

- registers schools as RTOs
- provides advice to schools on VET qualifications and VET contributions to the QCE
- promotes a range of VET options that allow young people to access industry-recognised training through nationally endorsed VET qualifications or nationally accredited courses.

Connecting with students

When a student is in Year 10 or turns 16 (whichever comes first) their school registers them with the QCAA and we open a learning account for them.

Schools give students a learner unique identifier (LUI) — a 10-digit number that the QCAA uses to identify a student — and a password, so students can access their learning account.

Once a learning account is opened, all eligible learning is recorded in the account, as well as where and when the learning took place, and the results achieved.

Students can access their learning account via the Student Portal on the myQCE website.

Respected certificates and qualifications

The QCAA develops and issues certificates of achievement, notably the QCE and the Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA).

The QCE is awarded to eligible students, usually at the end of Year 12. The QCE recognises broad learning options and offers flexibility in what, where and when learning occurs.

The QCIA recognises the schooling achievements of students who have impairments or difficulties in learning. It is an official record to show that students have completed at least 12 years of education, and provides students with a summary of their skills and knowledge that they can present to employers and training providers.

In addition, the QCAA:

- issues certified copies of certificates
- records achievements in approved areas of learning
- assesses the equivalency of school qualifications obtained at educational institutions outside Queensland.

Fair and transparent reporting

Reporting provides information for students and parents to support students' future learning. The QCAA has formal and informal methods of reporting through which teachers and schools provide information about student learning.

The QCAA:

- supports schools to be transparent in reporting student performance data
- requires schools to be accountable to parents and the wider community
- reports relevant school data to the public.



Find out more

Visit the QCAA website at www.qcaa.qld.edu.au, or telephone (07) 3864 0299.

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For all Queensland schools



The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) is an independent statutory body of the Queensland Government. Our organisation provides kindergarten to Year 12 (K–12) syllabuses, guidelines, assessment, reporting, testing and certification services for Queensland schools.

As delegate for the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), we also register and audit Queensland school registered training organisations (RTOs).

Priorities

The QCAA has a wide range of responsibilities.

Our priorities are to:

- deliver the new Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) system
- support schools and early years educators to implement the P–10 Australian Curriculum and revised Queensland kindergarten learning guideline (QKLG)
- provide resources to support schools to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes for students.

Commitment

The QCAA is committed to building strong and enduring partnerships in the education community. We:

- engage with principals, teachers and students from kindergarten to Year 12 to ensure that curriculum and assessment in Queensland encourages the development of valued knowledge and skills
- adhere to rigorous assessment and certification processes to assure teachers, students and parents that high standards of student achievement, fairness and equity are met.

The QCAA is open and accountable to schools and the wider community.

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Evidence-based syllabuses and guidelines

Schools use QCAA syllabuses and guidelines to construct and align curriculum, assessment and reporting.

The QCAA:

- develops, approves and revises syllabuses and guidelines for K–12
- offers professional development services and resources to help teachers implement syllabuses and guidelines
- ensures curriculum and assessment programs developed by schools are rigorous and meet the requirements of QCAA syllabuses.

Kindergarten — the best start to learning

Our revised QKLG provides advice for planning, interacting with children, monitoring and assessing, and sharing information in kindergarten contexts.

The *Continua of learning and development* is embedded within the QKLG to help teachers make evidence-based decisions about children’s current learning, and use this information to plan future learning.

The QKLG:

- is based on the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia
- is informed by evidence-based research
- helps services meet the criteria for an approved kindergarten program.

The QCAA website hosts a wide range of professional development resources and training modules that support kindergarten teachers to implement the QKLG and meet the National Quality Standard.

We also offer an accreditation service for kindergarten guidelines developed outside the QCAA.

Implementing the Australian Curriculum

Prep to Year 10

Australia has adopted a national framework for schooling aimed at raising education standards and achieving nationally consistent curriculum, assessment and reporting. Queensland schools began using the Australian Curriculum in 2010 and are working towards implementing all learning areas for Prep to Year 10.

The QCAA assists schools to successfully implement each learning area by providing:

- advice, guidelines and resources based on the Australian Curriculum content descriptions and achievement standards
- A–E standard elaborations to enable teachers to make consistent and comparable judgments about student achievement
- assessment advice and guidelines, factsheets and templates covering assessment for learning, developing assessments, making judgments, using feedback and moderation
- sample assessments
- resources that support curriculum and assessment planning at three levels: whole-school planning, year-level planning and unit planning
- face-to-face workshops focused on developing knowledge and understanding of the Australian Curriculum.

Years 11 and 12

The entire suite of QCAA senior secondary syllabuses were redeveloped to support the implementation of the new QCE system, which started with Year 11 students in 2019. The Australian Curriculum was used as the basis for developing relevant syllabuses.

Expert assessment

The QCAA has expertise in developing, administering and marking assessment for students across all phases of learning. Additionally, we interpret student responses to identify trends in student learning and to support school planning that will improve student achievement.

The QCAA:

- develops and marks external assessment and Senior External Examinations for General subjects
- develops common internal assessment for Essential English and Essential Mathematics
- develops procedures to help schools administer all QCAA assessment, ensuring students have equitable access
- administers and marks the National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests for all Queensland schools
- provides test and assessment results and feedback to schools and students.

Valid, reliable and accessible senior assessment

Queensland has introduced a new system of senior assessment for students completing Year 12 from 2020.

Key features include:

- new and redeveloped QCAA senior syllabuses
- external assessment in General subjects
- new quality assurance processes to strengthen the quality and comparability of school-based assessment
- changes to QCE eligibility requirements.

The QCAA:

- quality assures summative internal assessment administered in schools through endorsement and confirmation processes
- sets and marks external assessments for General subjects
- sets common internal assessment for Essential English and Essential Mathematics
- employs and trains teachers as QCAA assessors.

The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) will be used to select school leavers for tertiary entrance from 2020. The ATAR is used nationally and indicates a student’s position relative to other ATAR-eligible students. Queensland ATARs will be based on a student’s:

- best five General subject results, or
- best results in four General subjects, plus one Applied subject, or
- best results in four General subjects, plus one VET qualification at Certificate III or above.

The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) will calculate and issue ATARs for Year 12 students.