

# Rationalising VET qualifications: lessons from overseas





### Presenters



Bridget Wibrow Research Officer NCVER



Joanne Waugh Senior Research Officer NCVER



### Discussant



**Dr Darryn Snell** RMIT University



# Rationalising VET qualifications: lessons from overseas





# Why rationalise qualifications?



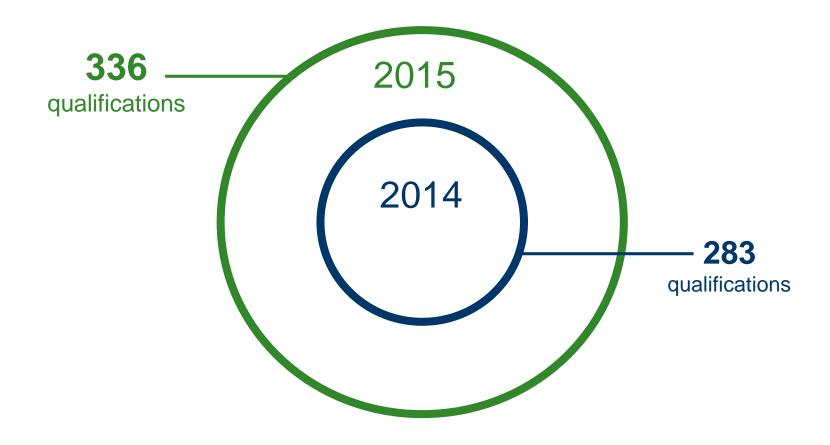
1 600 'in use' qualifications



85% of enrolments are in 200 qualifications



## Why rationalise qualifications?





# Why rationalise qualifications?





# Occupational clustering



# Grouping similar occupations together:

- common capabilities
- train for a number of occupations



# Occupational clustering



#### **Benefits** include:

- qualifications → jobs connection
- improving career mobility
- better informed career decisions
- adaptive workers



### Countries examined





### **Finland**



All vocational qualifications, includes vocational qualifications, further vocational qualifications and specialist qualifications.

Jobs are **more diverse** and career paths **more individualised** than previously.

351 qualifications



164 qualifications



### **New Zealand**



All VET qualifications (levels 1 to 6).

Industry had concerns about the clarity and relevance of qualifications.

There was a lack of user friendliness in the system.

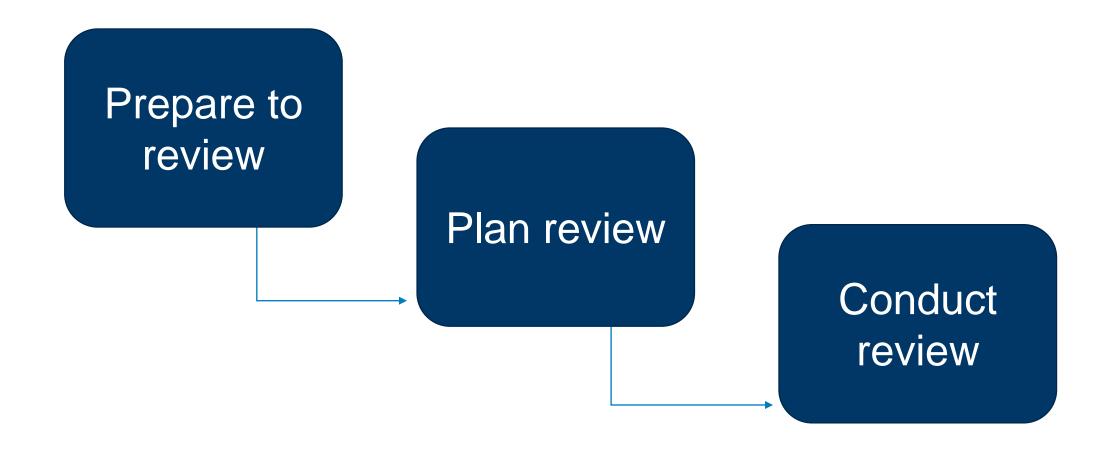
Remove duplication of qualifications.

**4610 qualifications** 





# New Zealand – review process





# England



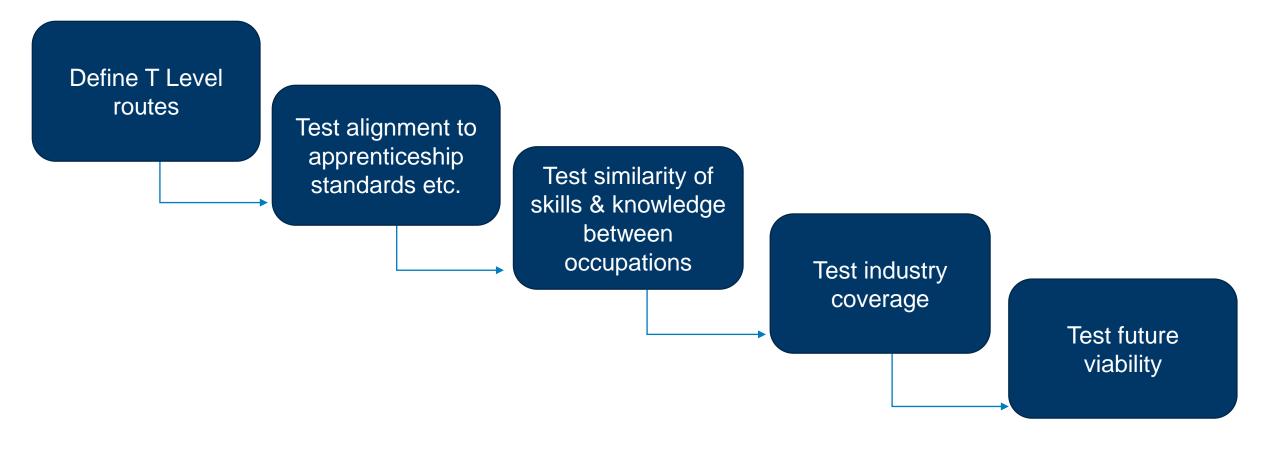
Post-16 vocational qualifications (aimed at 16 to 18-year-olds).

There were **too many** qualifications which held little value to employers or individuals.

Developed 15 T level routes.



# England – development of T level routes





### The Netherlands



Upper secondary vocational education qualifications.

Desire to create better transparency and functionality of qualifications.

Reduced VET qualifications by about 30%.

Now have 179 qualifications, 491 profiles and 1000 optional modules.



# What is it telling us?

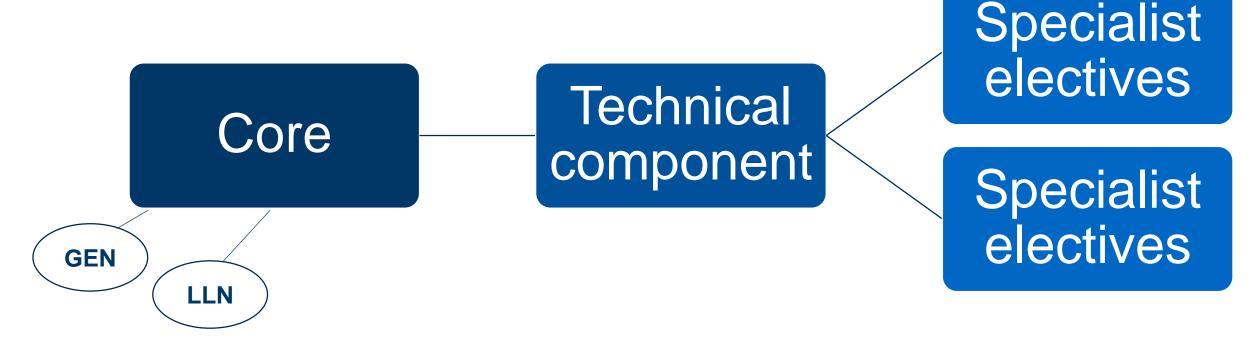
**Two** main ways to reduce qualifications:

- 1. Review existing qualifications to remove those duplicated or not in use
- 2. Re-organise qualifications into occupational clusters or similar.



# What is it telling us?

Clustered qualifications structure





# What is it telling us?



# Ongoing qualification review process

- qualifications remain relevant
- respond better to changing needs

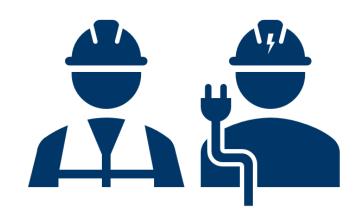




### Occupational clustering preferred

- more career mobility
- satisfies industry demand for labour



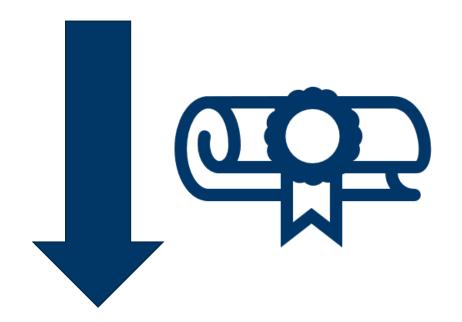






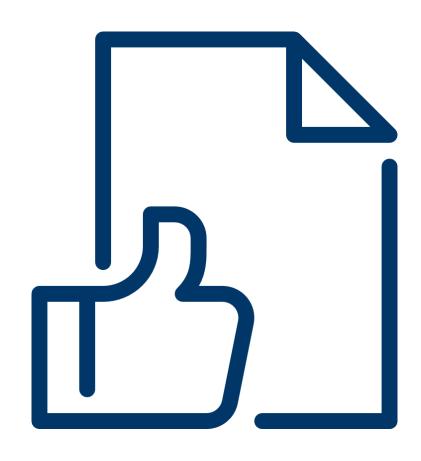
Use occupational classifications (ANZSCO) to **group similar occupations** together.





With fewer qualifications, units of competency, skill sets and micro-credentials become **important**.





Training package content updates demand:

- reliable up-to-date industry insight regarding labour demand
- workforce trends.





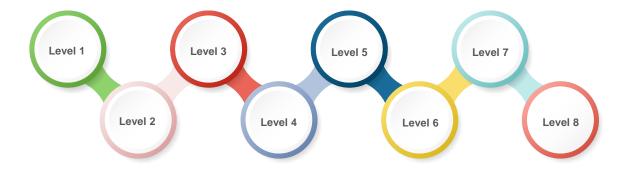
Consideration needed for learners requiring additional support.



The levels in the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)



VS







Qualifications embedded in industrial awards.



### Poll results





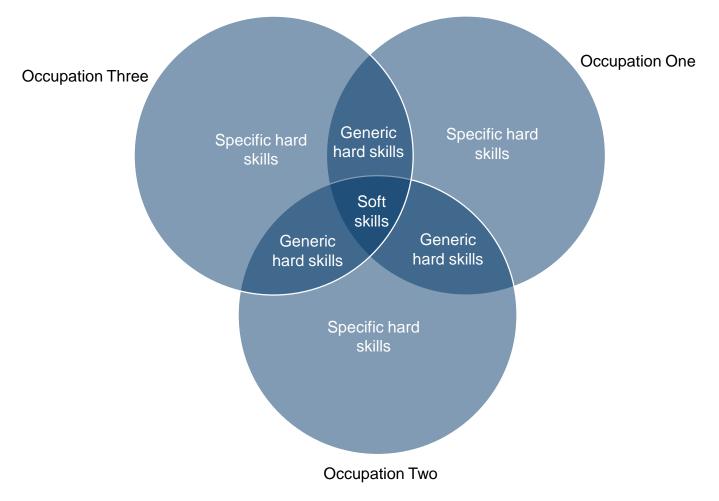
### Discussant



**Dr Darryn Snell** RMIT University



### Connections Between Skills & Occupations



Source: Snell, Gekara and Gatt, 2016



# Why designing qualifications for occupational mobility is an important consideration: The case of an auto worker

#### Skills Profile: Auto Production Worker

#### Duties and responsibilities:

- Assemble products able to competently operate several phases of assembly line process
- \* Complete tasks according to specifications and production targets
- Load and unload machinery
- Ose band tools, power tools, welding, painting and finishing equipment including robots
- \* Check and troubleshoot machinery and equipment including evaluating their accuracy
- \* Keep work area clean and organised following work safety guidelines
- \* Monitor, document and report problems verbal and written
- \* Check manufactured items for quality control
- Participate in/or facilitate group meetings to share job-related information
- \* Make suggestions for continuous improvement of work processes
- Use electronic information systems and keep accurate log of products produced during shift
- \* Prepare and label products for storage and distribution
- ° Train new employees
- \* Possess intricate knowledge and understanding of work systems
- Use correct disposal measures for waste including hazardous materials and recyclables

#### Skills and attributes:

- Dexterity well-developed hand/eye coordination
- Ability to follow instructions
- \* Time management skills
- Reliability and strong work ethic
- Ability to work in teams
- ° Flexibility in work role
- Communication (verbal and written)
- Attention to detail and ability to solve problems
- Ability to work to high standards under time pressure.
- \* Ability to think ahead, anticipate and plan needs of self and work team
- \* Ability to stand for long periods accustomed to demanding physical work
- Relevant technical knowledge of specialised equipment

#### Common qualifications:

#### Certificate II/III Auto Manufacturing

Certificate III Competitive Systems and Practices

#### Transferable skills relevant to many different occupations:

#### Communication

- -Uses verbal & written communication skills related to work procedures, OH&S, team dissemination
- -Ability to interact with diverse workforce

#### Teamwork

- -Can work effectively in teams
- -Promotes innovation in team environment
- -Communicates effectively in team

#### Problem-solving

- -Uses structured problem-solving tools e.g. root cause analysis
- -Continuous improvement of work processes
- -Problem-solves to improve quality and efficiency, maximise OH&S & improve team cohesion

#### Initiative & enterprise

- -Applies competitive systems & practices: quality standards, 5S system, process improvements, cost factors
- -Can identify and detect defects and stop production to make improvements.

#### Planning & organising

- -Plans work to optimise productivity
- -Organises workplace information utilising knowledge management systems
- -Applies Just in Time, Lean Manufacturing, quick changeover procedures where required

#### Self-management & resilience

- -Adapts to change with resilience
- -Adheres to work safety practices
- -Minimises waste to achieve production goals

#### Continuous learning

- -Has knowledge of environmentally friendly work practices
- -Keeps up to date with OH&S and mandatory training requirements

#### Technological skills

- -Uses information systems and other technologies according to training & skill level
- -Ability to use a range of hand tools, power tools and complex machinery including robots.

#### Auto production skills & healthcare jobs:

#### There are a wide variety of jobs in healthcare which you may be able to apply for:

- \* Laboratory or technical assistant
- Personal care assistant (PCA)
- Sterile services personnel (instrument or sterilising technician)
- " Hotel services (cleaning, kitchens & maintenance)
- ° Porter or orderly
- ° Stores & supplies department

#### Auto production skills and attributes relevant to healthcare jobs:

- Ability to learn new processes and tasks quickly and
- Ability to complete tasks according to standardised processes, procedures and within statutory requirements if appropriate
- Experience of a fast-paced industry working to deadlines and within strict time-frames
- Good written, verbal and interpersonal communication skills
- \* Ability to follow written and verbal instructions
- \* Accustomed to paying keen attention to detail
- ° Commitment to continuous quality improvement
- Able to complete reporting and documentation as per policies and procedures
- \* Understanding of the principles of waste management
- Awareness of the importance of manual handling regulations and PPE (personal protective equipment) where required
- \* Understanding of OH&S and work safety principles
- ° Physically fit to carry out role
- ° Friendly, helpful and positive attitude
- Able to work as part of a team and with minimal supervision when required
- ° Reliability
- ° Flexibility



# Q&A





## Stay connected

Subscribe at www.ncver.edu.au

#### **Follow**



twitter.com/ncver or @ncver



linkedin.com/company/ncver