

Queensland Comments on the Higher Education Standards Panel Draft Standards for Course Design and Learning Outcomes

Q1. Do you broadly support the proposed format for the standards? If not, why?

Queensland supports the proposed format for the standards, with the caveat that:

- higher education standards should be as closely compatible as possible to the vocational education and training (VET) regulatory standards currently being developed by the National Skills Standards Council; and
- detail included in reference points should be minimal and only refer to essential or highly relevant documents.

Q2. Do you support the inclusion of Reference Points as proposed? If not, why?

Queensland supports the inclusion of Reference Points as proposed. The draft standard on course design provides a useful exemplar in that it references the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). The AQF Qualifications Pathway Policy includes details on articulation and credit transfer that are highly relevant and the use of the reference point avoids duplication of the AQF requirements.

Q3. Do you wish to make any suggestions in relation to the format of the standards?

Queensland has no further comments on the format of the standards.

Q4. Do you broadly support the proposed standards for Course Design? If not, why?

Queensland broadly supports the draft standard for Course Design but suggests it be strengthened by some form of description to demonstrate involvement of relevant industry (employers), VET, schooling, professional body and professional registration authorities in course design to optimise industry relevance, pathway linkages, and facilitate smooth transitions between the sectors.

Q5. Do you wish to make any suggestions in relation to the specific content of the standards?

Queensland has no further comments on the content of the standards. However, it suggests that wording such as “The provider utilises defined processes . . .” could be better expressed as “The provider follows documented procedures . . .”

Q6. Do you broadly support the proposed standards for Learning Outcomes? If not, why?

Queensland supports the draft Learning Outcomes standards.

Q7. Do you wish to make any suggestions in relation to the specific content of the standards?

The reference to requirements for professional accreditation of the course and registration of graduates is strongly supported.