

Take2 Certification

We are pleased to announce that Take2 has been certified by the Ministry of Education for the 2012 year. This certification covers the SDR and NSI interface.

If you look at the list of software suppliers certified for 2012 it is interesting to observe that all are New Zealand based. None of the international companies selling student management systems in New Zealand are certified.

Makes you think.

Youth Guarantee and ERS

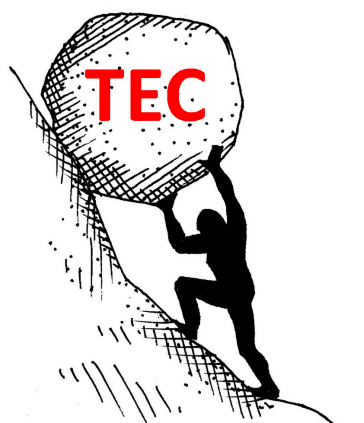
It is currently mid-February. We finally have a definitive specification from TEC for the changes to the ERS. We are about to start testing the updates we have made to our ERS interface. If all goes well we will have a release in March with the necessary revisions.

In the meantime you can continue to use the existing ERS interface and it will work for FTTO, TFW, and Youth Guarantee.

What we don't have from TEC is any clear definition of how to calculate funded places or occupancy rates in any meaningful way. To quote the latest communication on this topic from TEC "*TEC is yet to do the work to be in a position to provide such definitions.*"

Of course we shouldn't be surprised. TEC appears to be entirely incapable of providing tertiary education organisations with this kind of information in a timely manner. Which is curious given that this must materially affect TEC's ability to perform its own task to "...provide advice to the government on the activities and performance of Tertiary Education Organisations and the tertiary education sector, and to provide advice on the implementation of policy and the operational implications of new policy initiatives."

Makes you think.



"The gods had condemned Sisyphus to ceaselessly rolling a rock to the top of a mountain, whence the stone would fall back of its own weight. They had thought with some reason that there is no more dreadful punishment than futile and hopeless labour." Little did the gods know!

EPI Thresholds

TEC has recently published [information](#) on how it will be calculating overall performance for 2011 and 2012. This involves compiling a single performance score based on a quite complex formula that involves applying weightings to the individual education performance indicators.

The single score is matched against a set of thresholds to determine whether your funding will decrease or not.

The good news is that our new Hermes tool will include a calculator which will apply the formula against your EPI scores and show whether you meet the thresholds.

The bad news is that the thresholds are moving up between 2011 to 2012. You will have to jump a higher fence. About 12% higher in fact.

So – as Lenin asked – "What to do?"

- The obvious answer is to improve your completion and retention rates.
- Focus on the one education performance indicator that carries the most weighting. This is the successful course completion rate at all qualification register levels. Notice, though, that at levels 3 and 4 successful course completion carries a higher weighting than at all other qualification register levels.
- So if you have problems with your course completion rate, and you have not yet disaggregated

your course register to the lowest possible level, do so NOW.

- Make sure that you record all 2011 course and qualification completions in your student management system before you submit your April 2012 SDR. Giving extensions to students that will take them beyond 30 April for course enrolments that ended in 2011 can cost you dearly.
- Don't enrol students who are going to fail. Though this does beg rather a large question about who is going to help them.

Makes you think.

Top Tips – National Qualification Summary of Progress

The new Youth Guarantee funding scheme places great store on students achieving qualifications. We understand that TEC will be acquiring data from NZQA on the achievement of National Qualifications. So keeping track of whether your students have achieved or are close to achieving National Qualifications will be useful for you.

Take2 has (and has had for many years) a “Summary of Progress” feature also known as “Qual Check”. As you will know, every National Qualification is different in terms of what Unit Standards must be achieved by a student to earn the qualification. This makes it hard for you to know whether a student is entitled to be issued with a Certificate, especially if the student has prior learning. By requesting a summary of progress from NZQA you can find where students are up to.

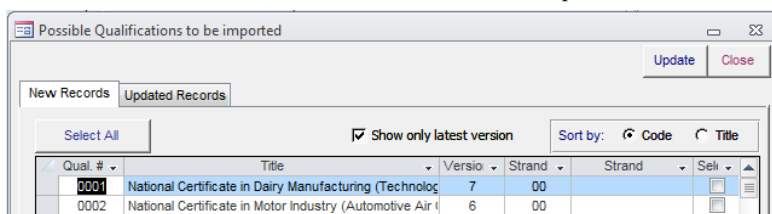
To run a summary of progress you need to do two things:

1. Import qualification code, names and strand data into Take2.
2. Use the Take2 NZQA reporting interface to generate a summary of progress request.

NZQA responds to the request with a summary of the student’s record of learning that shows their progress towards the qualifications you have nominated, highlighting any missing Unit Standards.

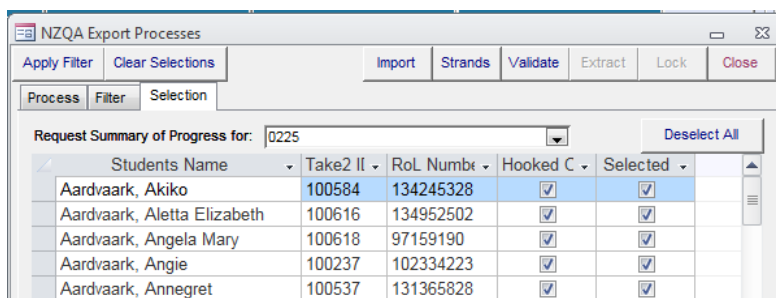
Importing Qualifications

- Download the file called “Qualifications.txt” from the NZQA Web site and save it in the folder where the Take2 data file is stored.
- In the Take2 Admin Module use the *National Qualifications* import from the *Curriculum Maintenance* menu. See Take2 [Tip Sheet 2](#) (downloadable from the Take2 web site) for more information on this process.

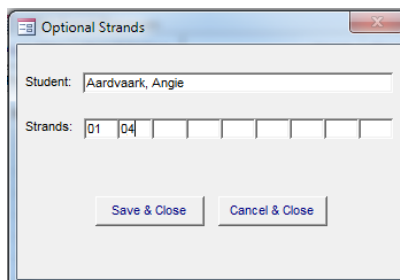


Creating Summary of Progress Request

- Click *NZQA* on the *External Reporting* menu in the Admin Module.
- Select the *Export Type* called *Summary of Progress*.
- Use the filter options in the usual way to select a group of students. They will be displayed on the *Selection* tab. Use the *Selected* field to fine-tune your selection.
- At the top of the *Selection* tab choose a qualification for which you want the students to be checked. Note – students included in your batch **MUST** be hooked-on.



- If the selected qualification has optional strands you must click *Strands* and enter the correct two digit code (or codes) for each option strand that is to be checked for **each** student. You can enter up to 9 codes per student.



- Complete the export process and upload to the NZQA web site as you would for reporting a batch of Unit Standard achievements.