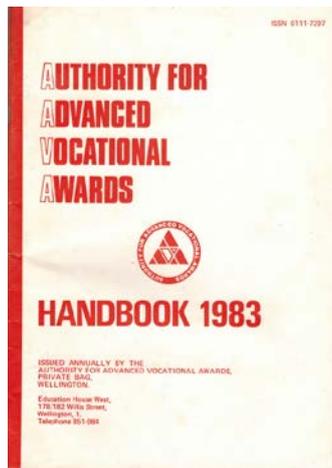


New Zealand Certificates

The circle turns! Those of us of more mature years will remember the Authority for Advanced Vocational Awards (AAVA). Indeed, some of us still have the handbook.



This body was responsible for “New Zealand Certificates” until it was subsumed within NZQA, when “National Certificates” were introduced. Now of course “New Zealand Certificates” are to replace most “National Certificates”.

And it is on the topic of these new “New Zealand Certificates” that we need your advice. Not being a tertiary education organisation TEC or NZQA doesn’t bother to keep us up-to-date with what is going on. We tend to hear about these things obliquely from our clients.

What we have been hearing leads us to believe that the time is coming when you will want to be able record and report more information from Take2 about learning outcomes. The time may also be coming when TEC and the Ministry will have to accommodate learning outcomes with non-discrete outcomes (i.e. not just “achieved/not achieved” or “successfully completed/not successfully completed”) as part of the funding and performance measurement regime.

We would very much like to hear from you about what you think is happening and what modifications/additions will have to be made to Take2.

NC5432 and 0231

You are probably aware that the Qualification Code assigned by TEC to the national/New

Zealand qualifications it funds is simply an “NC” (certificates) or “ND” (diplomas) in front of the NZQA qualification code. So the National Certificate in Hospitality (Entry Skills) is “1257 to NZQA and “NC1257” to TEC

Not so with the National Certificate in Employment skills. That is “0231” to NZQA and “NC5432” to TEC. Now, how could that be? Probably a case of the old “left hand doesn’t know what the right hand is doing” syndrome.



Check Performance Data

The release of education performance indicator (EPI) data is now to be made available through the TEC Workspace (*Analyse my Performance*) on 3 June. This is two weeks after the originally scheduled date.

Anyhow, on the assumption that TEC in fact meets the 3 June deadline, let’s think about what this means for you.

To put it simply, **if your performance in 2013 was below TEC’s as yet unspecified threshold, you will lose funding in 2015.** The complexity of the EPI mechanism is daunting and the precise effect on your funding is not revealed by TEC until well after the 2013 year has ended. So, it is easy to see why providers might get confused and have difficulty understanding both the mechanism and the threshold.

But in truth all providers have now had some months to look at provisional EPI results based on their December 2013 SDR. If your April 2014 SDR was to make any difference to your performance scores, it should have improved them.

Look at our Top Tip on the next page for more information. Do not leave this task until later in June (as some providers have done in previous years), because doing so **you may lose funding in 2015.**

Top Tip – Check Performance Data

Your Targets

TEC seems to be incapable of providing timely and coherent information of its expectations about how performance in one year affects future funding.

For [SAC level 3+ funding we know what happened in 2014](#). We know that 2012 under- and over-delivery were taken into account, and a 70% successful course completion (SCC) threshold for 2012 was applied, whereby those providers that did not achieve 70% were given an indicative 2014 allocation of zero funding. Providers who made it to 70% SCC or better were then ranked into a league table against each other using both the SCC and Qualification completion (QC) rates in a [weighted formula](#). For levels 5 and above student retention (SR) was also included in the weighting. Those who were in the bottom half of the league table (i.e. below the median) could lose up to 5% of their funding. We do know that this weighting will be applied for the 2013 data, and we can probably assume a crude SCC threshold will also be applied as the initial cut-off to make a decision about a zero allocation, though whether this will be 70% is not yet known.

For Youth Guarantee there has been a transition whereby 2014 funding was based on some poorly defined and calculated indicators of 2012 performance. Looking to 2015 we know that TEC published some [expectations](#) for 2013 based on the same indicators as for SAC level 3+. We would expect that successful course completion will – as for SAC – be the most important indicator. Qualification completion (QC) measures for Youth Guarantee are even more flaky than for SAC funding, and student retention (SR) is almost impossible to measure for Youth Guarantee for 2013, given the transition.

So, the bottom line is SCC is what you need to look at first.

A Quick Check of Where you Stand

The advice below is the best we can provide, given TEC's failure to provide adequate information. We accept no responsibility for the use of the advice and – if you have any concerns – we strongly recommend that you contact TEC directly and to do so sooner rather than later.

1. Login to the TEC workspace and on the *Home* tab to select the correct provider name. Most of you will have only one provider to choose from.
2. Click *Analyse My Performance* and make sure that you select the correct funding source and year.

Indicator	Documentation	Last Updated	Pivot Table	Data File	Sub-sector Median	Your EPI
Successful Course Completion		10/04/2014		-	84%	88%
Qualification Completion		10/04/2014		-	79%	86%
Student Progression		10/04/2014		-	23%	30%
Student Retention		10/04/2014		-	77%	91%

3. Look at the values for each of the four indicators for *Sub-Sector Median* and the *Your EPI* columns. This is your performance at all levels.
4. You can view your performance at each level/level group by clicking *View Educational Performance Indicators Report* and downloading a PDF.



5. Because TEC doesn't provide median values for each level/level group it is all but impossible to know exactly where you stand but it would be safe to assume the following:
 - 5.1. For SAC 3+ contact TEC and ask what "zero allocation" SCC threshold is to be applied to your 2013 performance in determining 2015 funding. If *Your EPI* SCC value is above this threshold then you will retain funding.
 - 5.2. Next check that for level 3-4 *Your EPI* SCC and QC values are above the median. For level 5 upwards also check the SR value. If these values are above the median you will lose no funding. If they are below you need to look more closely at the Supporting Details CSV files which you find at the bottom of the *Analyse My Performance* page to see if there are qualification completion records missing, or course completion records with an incorrect *Completion Event Status* in column AU.
 - 5.3. For Youth Guarantee you need to check *Your EPI* values against TEC's table of [expectations](#). If you beat these expectations we can assume you will retain funding. If you are seriously below we suggest look more closely at the Supporting Details CSV files.
 - 5.4. If you are bit over and a bit under, then contact TEC and ask how your scores will affect 2015 funding.

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