

IV level qualification with a broad title (Information and Cultural Services) which includes some library, museum, gallery or archives units – the aim being to open career pathways to the other sectors.

The success – or otherwise – of the rebranding remains to be seen. Having been heavily involved in the Training Package review process as a member of the National Project Reference Group, and an editor and co-writer of the library units, I'm hoping all the

hard work pays off. Full details regarding units and qualifications available in the Training Package can be accessed at www.training.gov.au/Search.

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More on the AQF

In this month's OPINION, Stuart Ferguson touched on the practicalities of the implementation of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). Di Booker explains more about the national policy for regulated qualifications in Australian education and training.

The AQF incorporates the qualifications from each education and training sector into a single comprehensive national qualifications framework. The Framework now provides the standards for Australian qualifications and is embedded in the higher education and vocational education and training standards. Ultimately students, graduates and employers, both Australian and international, benefit from the quality qualifications that are built on these requirements.

The Framework has ten levels which reflect the relative complexity and depth of achievement and autonomy required of graduates to demonstrate that achievement. It is an integrated policy comprising:

- the learning outcomes for each AQF level and qualification type, defined in terms of what graduates are expected to know, understand and be able to do as a result of learning
- specifications for the application of the AQF in the accreditation and development of qualifications
- policy requirements for issuing AQF qualifications, for qualification linkages and student pathways, for the addition or removal of qualification types in the AQF, for the registers of organisations authorised to accredit and/or issue AQF qualifications and AQF qualifications and qualification pathways
- definitions of the terminology used in the AQF

The AQF was first introduced in 1995 to underpin the national system of qualifications in Australia, encompassing higher education, vocational education and training and schools. In 2011, under the leadership of the AQF Council, the AQF was revised to ensure that qualification outcomes remain relevant and nationally consistent, continue to support flexible qualifications linkages and pathways, and enable national and international portability and comparability of qualifications. This revision reconfirmed the importance of this national approach in underpinning confidence in Australia's education and training system.

The users of the AQF span all education and training sectors, covering schools, vocational education and training and higher education. The accrediting authorities and institutions providing

education and training also use the Framework, along with other stakeholders such as industry and its representative bodies, unions, professional associations (such as ALIA), licensing authorities, and governments.

The accreditation of AQF qualifications, the authorisation of organisations to issue them and the ongoing quality assurance of qualifications and issuing organisations is legislated within Australian jurisdictions. Verification of AQF qualifications and the organisations authorised to issue them is managed through the AQF Register. For more information, visit the website at www.aqf.edu.au.

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Library and Information Managers.

Applications are now open for the postgraduate programs in Library and Information Management or Business Information Management offered by UniSA.

These programs are blurring the boundaries and will enable librarians, records managers, archivists and business information management professionals to reinvent their careers, to keep in touch with the latest digital approaches and work in a wider skilled environment.

The programs offer you the opportunity to study at your own pace: either part-time or full-time, externally online, or face to face in Adelaide.

For further details and information please email moira.lawler@unisa.edu.au or visit unisa.edu.au/bim



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