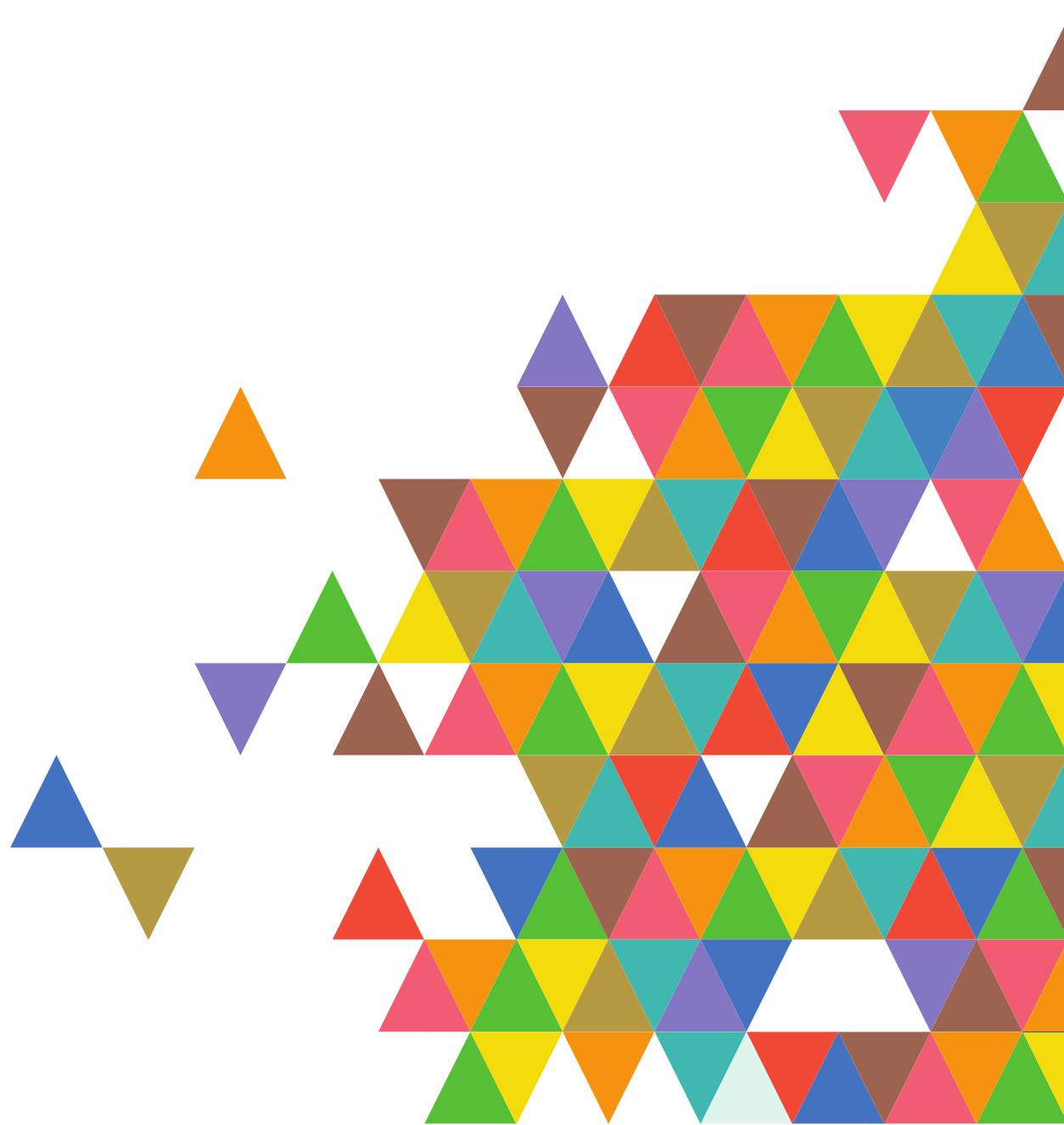


# Review of the Australian Qualifications Framework

*What's in a name, what's in a qualification?*

TEQSA Conference - November 29 2018

Professor Peter Noonan



# The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Review



## The AQF Review

- ❖ The AQF is the national policy for regulated qualifications in Australian education.
- ❖ Review announced in 2017-18 Budget as part of the higher education reform package.
- ❖ Purpose - to position the AQF for the future given workplace and education sector change.
- ❖ Need to consider other reform processes:
  - Provider Category Standards Review
  - VET training product and short course reform
  - Senior Secondary School reforms

## Current Status

- ❖ Expert Panel members appointed to lead the Review
  - Professor Peter Noonan (chair)
  - Professor Sally Kift
  - Professor Elizabeth Moore
  - Ms Megan Lilly
  - Mr Allan Blagaich
  - Ms Lesley Loble
  - Ms Marie Persson

## Phase 1

- ❖ Consultancy – international qualifications frameworks and domestic use of AQF – complete
- ❖ Consultancy – credit transfer – complete

## Phase 2

- ❖ Panel: First meeting October 5 2018
- ❖ Discussion paper and consultation
- ❖ Provide report to Ministers then COAG
- ❖ Develop implementation plan based on preferred recommendations



## Why review?

- ❖ Changes in the nature of work affect
  - necessary skills
  - types of qualifications required by industry.
- ❖ Timely – seven years since last reviewed
- ❖ Commonwealth committed to review the AQF in three years when the AQF Council was disbanded in 2014.

## Terms of Reference

- ❖ Position AQF for the future
- ❖ Reflect knowledge, skills required for future employment
- ❖ Facilitate learning pathways between sectors, AQF levels and qualifications
- ❖ Consider recognising and including short credentials like skill sets, micro-credentials, enabling courses, MOOCs
- ❖ Advise on:
  - Clarity of levels, qualifications, descriptors
  - Volume of learning
  - Placement of VET and higher education qualifications
  - Aggregateable ('stackable') qualifications.
- ❖ AQF governance arrangements.



## Background research

- ❖ Contextual research for the Review – PhillipsKPA
  - On Department of Education and Training website
- ❖ Credit pathways in VET and higher education – Ithaca Group
  - Final report will be released soon

## Discussion paper

- ❖ Will be released soon 😊
- ❖ Will advance some possible approaches
  - Looking for proposals from education providers, industry and students
- ❖ Submissions close early March 2019

## Consultation

- ❖ February 2019 – Sessions in each capital city, Albury, Townsville
- ❖ Consultation around possible approaches in April 2019
- ❖ Further consultation around an implementation plan towards the end of the review

# Some main issues



Area	Context	To resolve
Shorter form credentials eg microcredential, skill sets	Employers/students want: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ faster, cheaper learning</li> <li>▪ credit for prior learning/skills</li> <li>▪ 'stackable' qualifications</li> </ul> Some providers offer microcredentials Other countries – eg New Zealand	Quality assurance Alignment with AQF levels Relationship to existing qualifications
Enterprise and social skills	Employers/graduates want work ready skills Debate whether/how skills can be taught	What skills to include in the AQF How to include them How to deal with context specific nature
Qualifications and levels	Duplicated learning outcomes in levels and qualifications	Remove duplication from qualifications
Taxonomy	Unclear descriptors Application of skills and knowledge not suited to taxonomy structure	How to address autonomy and other features in taxonomy
Pathways	Providers have own motivations for credit Better recognition of short credentials sought	Can an optionally referenced credit points system help?