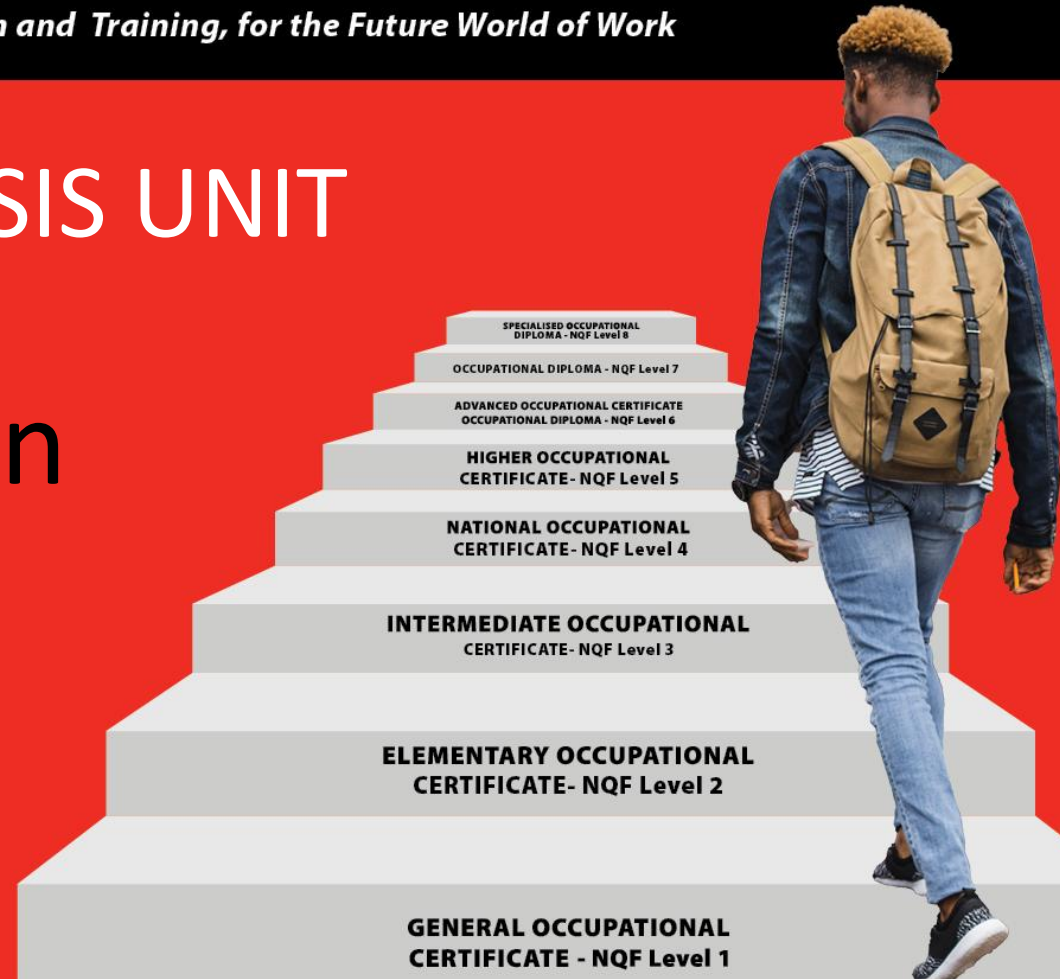


Enhancing Access to and Success in Post-School Education and Training, for the Future World of Work

RESEARCH & ANALYSIS UNIT

SDP Capacitation Workshops



Research at the QCTO

- The functions of Quality Councils are outlined in Section 27 of the NQF Act.
- Amongst other things, the QCs are mandated to conduct research.
- The Research & Analysis Unit at QCTO is responsible for research and knowledge development.

Previous research conducted

- Forms of assessment systems and practices (modalities) for Occupational and trade qualifications on the OQSF
- Articulation possibilities into the workplace, entrepreneurship, and the HEQSF
- International Benchmarking of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in Vocational Education and Training
- *Previous research reports can be found in the QCTO Research Bulletin published on the QCTO website.*

Articulation possibilities into the workplace, entrepreneurship, and the HEQSF

- **Qualifications before entry into the Occupational Qualification**
 - Over 80% of graduates already possess a matric or equivalent or higher qualification.
- **Pathway to employment/self-employment**
 - Occupational qualifications provide a pathway to employment for previously unemployed individuals and contribute to the career progression of individuals already in the workforce.
 - Graduates secured employment or transitioned to self-employment within a year of obtaining their qualification.

Articulation possibilities into the workplace, entrepreneurship, and the HEQSF

- **Strong link between training and relevant employment**
 - Most graduates reported being employed in positions related to their field of study.
- **Long-term commitment to self-employment**
 - The majority of the graduates have been self-employed for two years or longer, while nearly exceeding five years in their self-employed capacity.
 - Additionally, the self-employed individuals are mostly engaged in business directly related to their field of study.

Articulation possibilities into the workplace, entrepreneurship, and the HEQSF

- **Articulation into further education**

- A large proportion of occupational qualifications allow for vertical articulation into Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), providing access to National Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas, and, in some instances, Degrees.
- The survey data indicated a limited uptake of further study, with very few graduates enrolled for further study, although that pathway exists.
- Those who do pursue further education demonstrate a clear preference for continuing within the same field.
- There is a strong intention among certified learners to pursue further education, with 95.35% expressing a desire to continue their studies.

Planned research for 2025/26

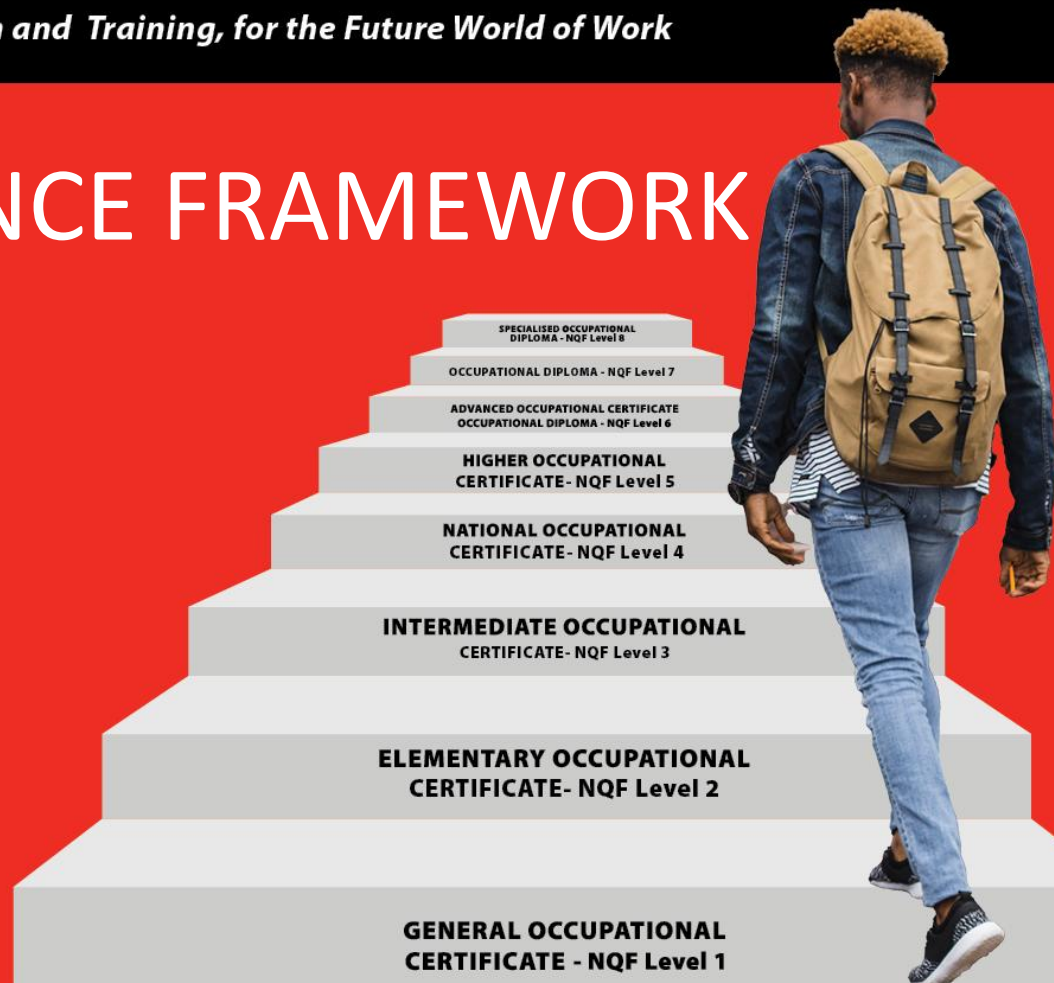
- Development of a Quality Assurance (QA) Framework for the OQSF
- Tracer Study on Occupational Qualifications and Skills Programmes graduates
- Qualification Design Approaches
- Career Guidance for the OQSF
- Addressing public mistrust in VET through Vocational Success stories

Way forward for research

- The QCTO Research & Analysis Unit will continue to commission research on issues in the OQSF to keep abreast with local and international trends.
- The data and research findings will continuously be used for decision-making, meeting strategic objectives, informing policy, and supporting operations within the organisation.

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A QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK FOR THE OQSF



Background

- The National Plan for Post-School Education and Training (NPPSET) provides a comprehensive framework to guide the QCTO in enhancing the quality and relevance of trade and occupational qualifications, fostering a more integrated and responsive PSET system in South Africa.
- The QCTO is gearing towards the implementation of a number of key policies and strategies over the next five years, including the NPPSET.
- The QCTO's Strategic Plan for 2025/26 to 2029/30 includes the development of a Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) for the Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF).

Why is it necessary?

- Aligns quality assurance to legislation
- Provides an integrated approach to quality assurance
- Standardises processes across the sector
- Strengthened quality assurance mechanisms

What does it involve?

- Multi-year process
- Research
- Legislative framework including regulations, policies, and procedures
- Sector-wide stakeholder engagement
- Communities of practice

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Thank you

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