

INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYERS, PARENTS AND THE COMMUNITY



NEW QUALIFICATIONS FOR POST-COMPULSORY EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN TASMANIA A GENERAL GUIDE



TASMANIAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY



WHAT ARE THE NEW QUALIFICATIONS FOR TASMANIA?

FROM 2009 THE FOLLOWING NEW QUALIFICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE UNDERTAKING EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN TASMANIA AFTER YEAR 10:

1. Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE)
2. Tasmanian Certificate of Educational Achievement (TCEA)
3. Qualifications Certificate (QC)



WHAT DO THE NEW QUALIFICATIONS MEAN?

TASMANIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (TCE)

This qualification will be issued for the first time in 2009.

A person who gets this certificate has met requirements for:

- everyday adult reading, writing, communication (literacy)
- everyday adult mathematics (numeracy)
- everyday adult computer use including the internet (information communication technology - ICT)
- a set amount of learning in post-compulsory education and training at a set standard.

Each person will also have developed and reviewed a plan for future career, education and training.

Meeting the literacy, numeracy and ICT requirements

There are many ways in which these 'everyday adult' standards can be met. These include:

- senior secondary courses (year 11 and 12) such as English, Mathematics and Information Technology
- vocational education and training (VET) courses like Certificate II in Business
- stand-alone tests in each area provided by the Tasmanian Qualifications Authority (TQA).

Meeting these standards means that a person will be able to, for example:

- read simple procedures and instructions; interpret signs; use questions to get information
- use everyday maths knowledge and skills to measure, solve basic problems, calculate using simple fractions and metric quantities
- use a computer (for example, word processor and spreadsheet), send and receive e-mails, and use the internet.

A set amount of learning at a set standard

A very broad range of education and training can count towards meeting the requirement for a set amount of learning at a set standard.

The set amount of learning required is roughly the amount that a student would complete in two years of full-time study. There is no time limit – the required amount of learning can be built up over a long time.

All of the learning must be at basic senior secondary level or above. Some must be at least one step above basic.

Developed and reviewed plans for future education and training

It is a good idea for people to plan for career and education pathways designed to prepare them for employment and the world of work. These might include skills useful for successful planning in personal life, careers, future roles and dealing with dislocation.

WHAT DO THE NEW QUALIFICATIONS MEAN?

TASMANIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT (TCEA)

This is a new certificate designed for the small number of people for whom standardised certificates (like the TCE and the Qualifications Certificate) do not provide an adequately just and fair account of their achievement. Sometimes personal circumstances (e.g. long periods of illness, learning disabilities or critical family issues) mean that a description in words gives a fairer account of what has been achieved.

The Tasmanian Certificate of Educational Achievement will provide a quality assured, centrally-issued, descriptive account of learning. A person who gets the TCEA may also get the Qualifications Certificate and the new TCE.

QUALIFICATIONS CERTIFICATE (QC)

This new certificate lists all education and training qualifications recognised by the TQA. It will be issued for the first time in 2009.

The Qualifications Certificate will include vocational education and training qualifications and units of competence, senior secondary qualifications and other qualifications gained outside the formal education and training system (as long as they are recognised by the TQA).

Anyone achieving qualifications beyond their senior secondary education may request an updated qualifications certificate. So, post-school qualifications obtained across a life time of learning can be progressively added to the Qualifications Certificate.



WHAT CAN THE PUBLIC EXPECT FROM THE NEW QUALIFICATIONS?

EMPLOYERS

Over time, employers can expect more people, especially young people, to have a Qualifications Certificate as a certified record of all achievements in education and training, including full qualifications in Vocational Education and Training (VET) as well as individual subject results and VET competencies.

Employers should confidently expect that anyone with the Tasmanian Certificate of Education can, at an everyday adult standard, do things like:

- write a simple formal letter outlining instructions for a particular purpose
- interpret basic information from ordinary tables, charts and other graphic information
- select and integrate information for a report
- use the telephone to order materials or manage a customer query
- express and calculate with metric quantities
- compare and contrast costs of alternative types of travel
- use a computer and common software (word processing, spreadsheet)
- use the internet to search for information
- use email as a communication tool.

COMMUNITY

The community should expect that most young people will at least reach the standards required by the TCE – that is, everyday adult skills and a good start in their post-compulsory education and training. The community can expect that the TCE will deliver what it promises: it will be based on clear and worthwhile standards and clear evidence that the standards have been met.

PARENTS

Parents can expect that their daughters and sons will reach or do better than the standards set by the TCE. These standards set a benchmark they can actively encourage these young people to meet. They will know that those awarded the TCE will have completed a full program of study. Students will have thought about their futures. Many will meet university entrance requirements and/or achieve complete VET qualifications.

FEEDBACK

In 2010, the TQA will be looking for feedback from employers, parents and others on their experiences with the new certificates, in particular on the everyday adult skills shown by people with the TCE.

CONTACT THE TQA FOR
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PROVIDE FEEDBACK:

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MAKING YOUR QUALIFICATIONS COUNT



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