

Technology Update

For Developers of Student Management Systems

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27 September 2005

NQF XML Schemas

This update is to brief vendors of Student Management Systems on developments in the education sector that may impact future release plans. The Ministry of Education, TEC and NZQA are committed to providing a more coordinated environment for vendors.

The TEC and NZQA are working on a strategy to enable the sharing of NQF results data for targeted funds students. This will allow targeted funds providers to submit their results data only once to NZQA instead of separately to both, as is currently the case.

To facilitate this common data collection, the results data format will be revised to include the TEC programme ID and relevant provider relationships where standards are delivered and awarded by a sub-contracted provider. TEC and NZQA have agreed to develop an XML format for NQF Electronic Transfer that will support these additional requirements.

This brings the agencies closer to the Tertiary Information Strategy of using open standards architecture for data interchange and system interoperability. XML will eventually become the standard data format for programmatic access to MoE's National Student Index, NZQA's Tertiary Records system and TEC's Electronic Receipting applications. At this point, our intention is to leave the File Transfer formats as currently specified, and to implement the enhanced features for targeted funds only in XML.

This update is to inform you of these upcoming developments. The TEC and NZQA are jointly releasing the draft XML formats with this announcement. We expect to confirm the final format by the end of October 2005.

Software vendors and developers who have clients that are Targeted Funds providers are encouraged to consider using the XML formats, as this format will allow those providers to make a single return. Please note that where the current record format is used in 2006, those providers will have to continue making duplicate returns of NQF data. We are developing a timetable to allow production use of the XML formats for 2006, and will advise you as soon as details are available.

The TEC and NZQA will also provide manual (paper based) forms and web form facilities for results submission, prior to the updated SMS systems being available.

If you have any enquiries, please contact Mark Cullen (mark.cullen@nzqa.govt.nz) or Greg Smith (greg.smith@tec.govt.nz) for further information.

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