
The Current Status: Who Teaches What?

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Abstract

The first qualification in computing that was developed and approved by the National Advisory Committee on Computing Qualifications (NACCQ) was implemented in 1988. Over the following ten years all the polytechnics in New Zealand had adopted and taught at least one or more of the qualifications that were subsequently developed by the NACCQ. With the pending change of status of the NACCQ it is timely to review which Polytechnics are still teaching the NACCQ qualifications.

This poster paper appeared at the 1st annual conference of Computing and Information Technology Research and Education New Zealand (CITRENZ2010) incorporating the 23rd Annual Conference of the National Advisory Committee on Computing Qualifications, Dunedin, New Zealand, July 6-9. Samuel Mann and Michael Verhaart (Eds).

Keywords

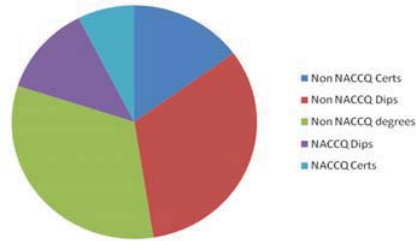
Computing qualifications, NACCQ, NQF

Introduction

The NACCQ has developed and successfully supported a number of qualifications over the past 22 years. The first qualification was a one year Certificate in Business Computing. This was followed by a further one year qualification the Advanced Certificate in Business Computing and finally a third, one year qualification the National Diploma in Business Computing. A six month or one semester qualification the Introductory Certificate in Computing was also introduced in 1990. With advent of the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) National Qualifications Framework (NQF) in 1994, during the 2002 biennial review of the Blue Book the first two one year qualifications were revised and renamed the National Diploma in Information and Communications Technology L5 and L6. (Blue Book, 2009)

The current situation

A survey was undertaken in early May 2010 to determine which Polytechnics were teaching the NACCQ qualifications and what plans there were for 2011. The institutions websites were perused and information gathered for programmes of study up to level 7, post graduate programmes were not considered. This survey was totally dependent on the accuracy of the



NACCQ quals vs non-NACCQ quals

institutions websites but was compared to the information in the NACCQ secretariat.

According to the websites, three institutions are teaching the Blue Book level 3 Certificate in Computing (CIC). A further six institutions websites report that they are currently offering the National

Certificate in Computing level 3 (NCC3), this is the unit standards based NQF qualification. Of these, two also offer the NCC level 4 and three teach the NCC level 2. Only one of these institutions offer all three levels of the NQF qualifications.

Currently 13 institutions have indicated they are offering an undergraduate degree programme. A further 11 institutions are offering a graduate diploma (level 7) with one institution not offering a degree but two graduate diplomas at level 7.

Of the level 5 and level 6 qualifications five institutions offer the NACCQ level 5 DipICT while 13 institutions offer their own level 5 diploma. In 2011 the number offering the NACCQ qualification remains at six however one institution has indicated they will be offering their own qualification and one will start offering the NACCQ DipICT level 5. Four institutions are currently teaching the NACCQ DipICT level 6 and this will be reduced to three in 2011.

Conclusion

This survey shows that 17% of the current polytechnics are offering the level 3 NACCQ qualification, CIC, 28% are offering the DipICT L5 and 22% are offering the DipICT L6. In 2007, 94% were offering an undergraduate degree and this has fallen to 72% in 2010. Only 33% of institutions offer the NQF qualifications with only one institution offering all three levels. 55% of the institutions are offering their own qualification at level 6 with 66% offering their own qualifications at level 5.

This year will see a change in status for the NACCQ. The results of this survey would question whether the NACCQ qualifications are meeting the needs of the polytechnics. A revisiting of the NACCQ qualifications and the refocusing of the philosophies of the NACCQ working groups would appear to be urgent and crucial.

References

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