



# **Navigating the Labyrinth of Transnational Education: A New Zealand Perspective**

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NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY  
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

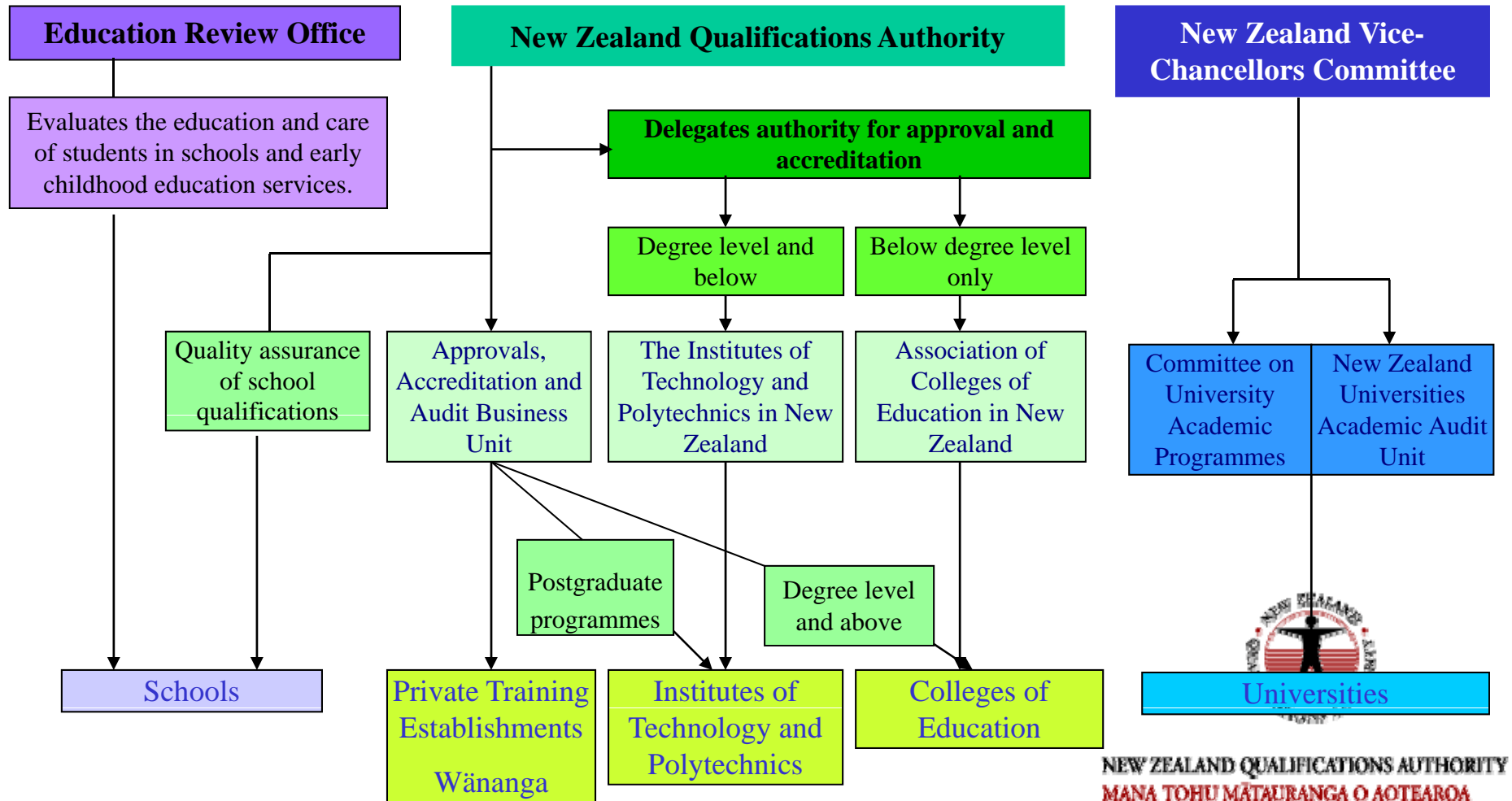
# Introduction

- General Role of the Qualifications Authority
- Facts and Figures on Transnational Education
- Challenges for quality assurance
- Ideas about Future Directions

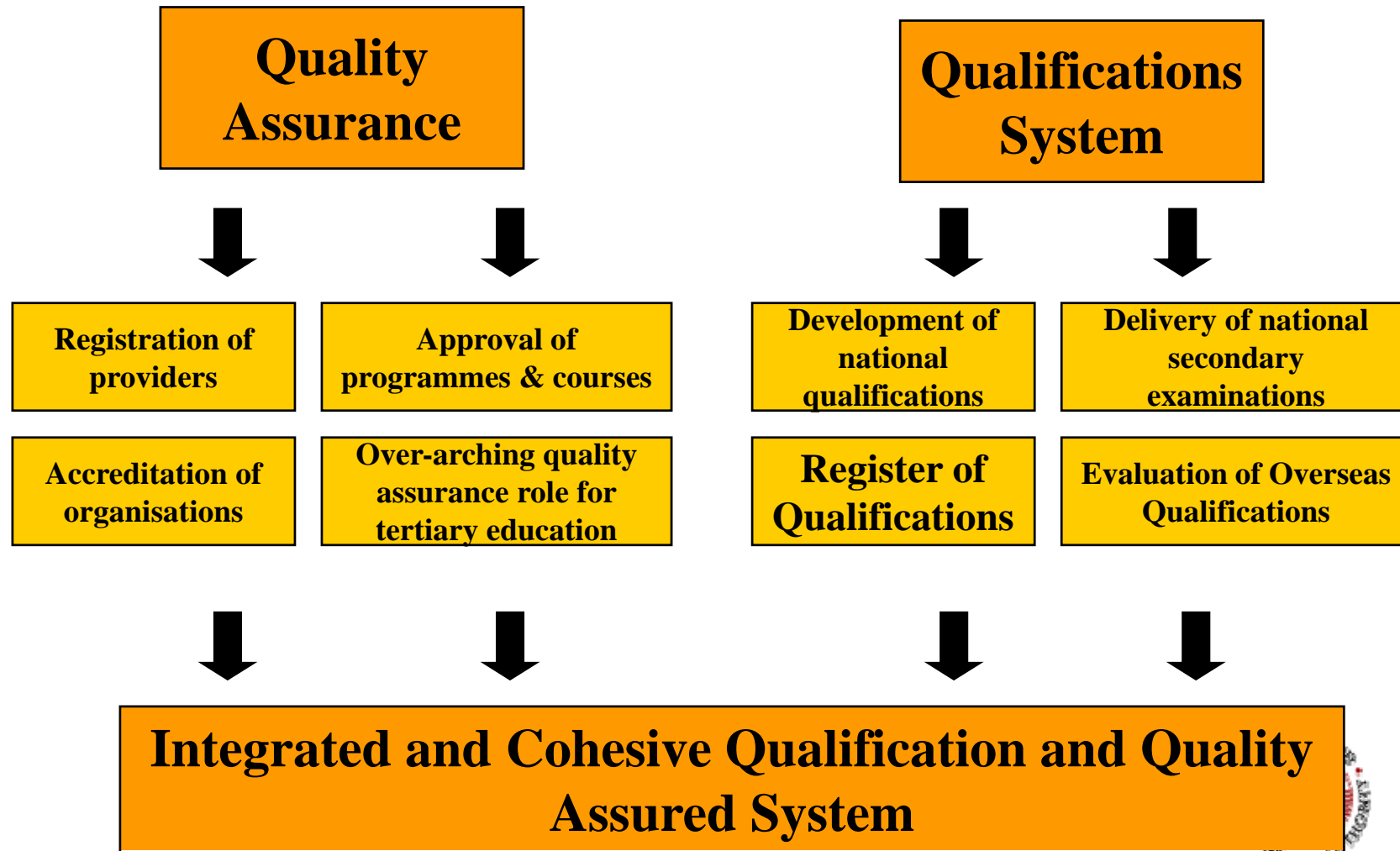


# Overview of New Zealand System

**Minister of Education**



# New Zealand Qualifications Authority



# Five Methods of Quality Assurance

- Initial Registration (or establishment)
- Course approval
- Accreditation
- Moderation
- Quality audit



# What is Transnational Education?

Transnational education is the service delivered to a student offshore, rather than the student moving to the source country of the service to study.



# Quality Assurance On-Shore

- In 2003
  - 1655 students overseas enrolled in New Zealand courses
  - 119,000 international students came to New Zealand to study
- Education Act protects the rights of international students studying in New Zealand
- Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of international students



# Current Policy For Providers Delivering a Quality Assured Course or Qualifications offshore

## Accreditation is site specific

- Covered by the provider's quality management system
- Consistent with the standards of the provider's New Zealand operation
- Comply with legal requirements in that particular country
- Acceptable to the relevant educational authorities in the particular country



# Current Policy: Where Delivery is in Collaboration with an Overseas Provider

## Additional Requirements

- Statement on the standing of the overseas provider and evidence that the organisation meets appropriate quality and course management requirements
- Detailed memorandum of co-operation between the New Zealand provider and the overseas provider
- Details of the quality assurance processes applying to the overseas provider



# Government Support for International Education

- 2004 Budget initiatives included:
  - Scholarships for international students
  - Funding for New Zealand education counsellors offshore
  - Export Education Innovation Programme
- Minister of Education also includes direct responsibility for International Education



# Information and Data

- Data, both internationally and relating to New Zealand needs to improve
- Definitional issues increase the difficulty of obtaining reliable and comparable data
- New Zealand Quality Assurance organisations are working to improve this
- Welcome opportunities to work with international colleagues on this issue



# Forms of Transnational Education

- Total distance delivery from New Zealand
- A New Zealand course delivered in an overseas institution under a partnership arrangement
- First year or two of study offshore, followed by the student moving to New Zealand to complete their course
- Setting up of an offshore campus by a New Zealand organisation to deliver a range of courses and qualifications
- Combination of the above



# Variables

- Legal form
- Physical presence and profile of the New Zealand organisation
- Whether a qualification resulting from a course is from the nation the course is delivered in, from New Zealand or both
- Ownership of assets (including intellectual property)
- Source and mix of staff (local/New Zealand/other international)
- Involvement of local partner organisations



# Focus on Qualifications

Offshore initiatives can encompass:

- New Zealand quality assured courses and qualifications
- Self-approved and accredited courses and qualifications with a New Zealand branding
- Courses leading to international qualifications
- Courses and qualifications from the nation the service is delivered in
- A mix of the above, including jointly awarded degrees



# What and How of Transnational Quality Assurance

## Breadth of Coverage

- No coverage offshore
- Coverage only of courses and qualifications that are already externally assured
- Coverage of all offshore courses and qualifications offered by a registered or statutorily constituted education provider
- Coverage of all courses and qualifications offered offshore by a New Zealand organisation – similar to rules for enrolling international students in New Zealand



# What and How of Transnational Quality Assurance

## Depth of Coverage

- Limited Approach – limited to course approval of modified courses but does not accredit for offshore delivery
- Thorough quality assurance of New Zealand organisation but limited coverage of overseas partner
- Full quality assurance of New Zealand organisation and any overseas partners
- Need for co-operation with overseas quality assurance bodies



# Wider Quality Strategy

## Regulatory Framework

Ensure a robust and efficient regulatory framework is in place

## International Relationships

Developing strong relationships & agreements with overseas quality assurance agencies

## Capability Development

Helping to build the capability of organisations who are already operating



# For Further Information

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