

The National Compliance Qualifications Project

About the project

The National Compliance Qualifications Project is a whole-of-government initiative designed to develop the capability of New Zealand's compliance sector by creating national qualifications supported by assessment and learning strategies.

The project is being led jointly by the Department of Internal Affairs and Learning State (the industry training organisation for the State sector) and has a steering group comprising senior managers from a range of organisations. More than 80 State and public sector agencies are members of the project. The project began in 2008 and is expected to be completed in 2013.

What is compliance?

For the purposes of the project, compliance is defined as "the process of ensuring that people adhere to rules and regulations".

It is estimated that approximately 12,000 New Zealand public sector employees perform some form of compliance function in their work. Although the specific nature of their agency and job may be different, there are a number of common skills that public sector employees working in the area of compliance need – for example, they need to be able to identify problems, investigate, interpret regulation and legislation, use statutory powers, analyse information and apply facts to legal provisions.

It is these skills which are the focus of the National Compliance Qualifications Project, as it looks to establish a framework of nationally agreed competencies and recognised qualifications for employees who work in the area of compliance.

Current status of the project

The project has developed a framework of qualifications that support career pathways in the compliance sector.

The qualifications range from an entry-level foundation qualification (which is a pre-requisite to higher level technical qualifications) through to specialised operations, audit, intelligence, investigations and prosecutions qualifications. There are also planned qualifications for people in management roles in the compliance sector.

With the assistance of two industry advisory groups comprised of subject matter experts from a wide range of organisations in the compliance sector, the project has developed drafts of the first three qualifications:

- National Certificate in Compliance Operations (Foundation) (Level 3)
- National Certificate in Compliance Operations (Level 4) with an optional strand in Investigations
- National Diploma in Compliance Investigations (Level 5) with optional strands in Prosecution and Civil Appeal Proceeding

These qualifications are expected to be registered on the National Qualifications Framework in mid 2011.

Wider links

The project is part of a wider programme of work known as the Compliance Common Capability Programme, which is being led by the Department of Internal Affairs.

The aim of this programme is to develop a stronger public sector compliance community by sharing information, using a common language, creating good practice organisational design strategies in relation to compliance and developing people capability.

The project also supports a number of Government initiatives and goals such as Better Regulation and Less Regulation, which includes improving the efficiency and effectiveness of compliance organisations by helping to address the way regulation is implemented.

In addition, it supports the Government's drive to deliver better, smarter public services for less, by taking a whole-of-government approach to common capability development.

For more details

The project has created an online shared workspace (the Compliance Workspace) where you will find articles, learning materials and other resources about compliance and the project. Anyone who works in a local or central government agency and who has a compliance-related role is able to apply for membership – please email your request to leah.edmonds@learningstate.govt.nz.

If you'd like to talk to someone about the project, contact Wendy Kale, Senior Advisor Research and Development, Learning State, at wendy.kale@learningstate.govt.nz or on 04 471 5573.