

National Skill Development Agency

Proposal to support the establishment of an Association of Assessment Bodies and a Community of Assessment Professionals

Rationale

The NSQF notification defines a qualification as *'a formal outcome of an assessment & validation process which is obtained when a competent body determines that an individual has achieved learning outcomes to given standards'*.

It is recognized that effective, consistent and quality-assured assessment is essential for NSQF qualifications to gain recognition, credibility and value in the education and skills system. Moreover, the role that Assessment Bodies and Assessment Professionals play in ensuring assessment within the NSQF aligns with best practice is critical.

To date, Assessment Bodies and Assessment Professionals play a reactive role in the skills system, despite the considerable experience and expertise that they hold. While the community of Assessment Bodies – and personnel - are eager to play a full part in the successful roll out of the NSQF, at present no forum currently exists for them to give voice to this.

It is recommended that the NSDA give serious consideration to the sponsorship of the establishment of both a Community of Assessment Professionals - as it has committed to for Trainers - as well as an Association of NSQF Assessment Bodies.

Membership

Membership of both the Community and the Association should be open to those who are currently working within the requirements of the NSQF and are recognized by SSCs and/or other Certifying Bodies

Those Assessment Bodies who, in the past, have expressed a keen interest in getting an informal Association off the ground include: Mettl, The Indian Institute of Welding, Multi Skills Assessors Guild, Manipal City and Guilds, I VINTAGE, STAMP and Aspiring Minds. These A/Bodies all work with SSCs, some with the DGT and some with SSDMs.

Objectives of an Association/Forum of A/Bodies

- 1 To provide a high level forum for A/Body personnel to contribute to assessment-related issues with regard to the further development of the NSQF and its implementation

- 2 To support NSDA in the successful implementation of the NQAF Manual for the Accreditation of Assessment Bodies
- 3 To provide NSDA with a forum for gathering feedback from the A/Body community in response to issues and/or developments with implications for assessment
- 4 To consider means by which the capacity-building of Assessors and other Assessment Professionals might be most effectively achieved
- 5 To give A/bodies an opportunity to share with NSDA the issues and concerns they have with current practice as well as providing solutions and/or recommendations for improvement
- 6 To provide a forum for the A/Body community to work together to raise standards with respect to assessment practice in the NSQF.

Objectives of a Community of Assessment Professionals

- 1 To provide a forum for sharing of information, advice, guidance and support across the assessment community
- 2 To raise the profile of Assessment and Assessment Professionals within the Skills Sector
- 3 To provide NSDA with a forum for gathering feedback from the Assessment Community
- 4 To meet the NQAF Quality Criteria for the on-going professional development of Assessment Professionals
- 5 To support the aspirations of NQAF Level 2 Accredited Assessment Bodies leading the sector in Assessment Research & Development