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Hello everyone and welcome.

Well done to those of you who noted that there was no July issue of BCATS e-news. We purposely avoided sending an update due to the school holidays and the promise of more substantial news following the pilot wrap-up. So without further ado – here it is.

Pilot Programme.

The end of term two in June saw the conclusion of the pilot programme in the ten participating schools throughout the country.

The feedback received from these schools has provided much valuable information and comments that will considerably improve the quality of the resource and assessment material.

The BCITO would like to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to these schools and in particular the teaching staff for including the selected units into their term two programmes.

BCITO Internal Working Party.

In mid July an Internal Working Party, together with a number of secondary teachers (who unselfishly were prepared to give up two precious days of their holidays) met in Wellington.

This meeting performed an important part in the development process of the new BCATS Qualifications. The feedback and recommendations made by the pilot schools was analysed by the group, changes discussed and where necessary additions, deletions and alterations were made to resource and assessment material.

BCITO Pre Moderation

As part of the BCITO Quality Management Systems, during the week following the Internal Working Party meeting, the BCITO Qualifications and Quality Assurance teams combined to conduct pre moderation on the BCATS Qualifications, unit standards and assessment materials.

The findings in the Quality Assurance report identified that the standards and related assessments, with the addition of some agreed amendments, are deemed fit for purpose.

The amendments identified changes on:

- terminology,
- editing of the unit standards and
- structure of the assessments

These results will be implemented progressively during the final stages of the

development process prior to submission to NZQA for the unit standards and qualifications, and prior to completion and roll-out of the teaching materials, learning resources, and assessment materials to schools and providers.

Accreditation

Recently there have been a number of enquiries relating to accreditation requirements for BCATS now that the Elementary Construction Skills domain expires with the roll-out of this new initiative.

For **Secondary Schools** the BCATS domain has been added to their Base Accreditation Scope. This means that they will be able to deliver the unit standards embedded in the two qualifications which will be added to that domain later this year. This domain will remain empty until the unit standards and qualifications are registered on the NQF.

Base scope accreditation for schools means that they do not have to go through the accreditation process however they are still required to meet the required QMS requirements for the delivery and assessment of these qualifications. There is in fact now a greater responsibility for schools to ensure that their Health and Safety Policy, Education Outside The Classroom (EOTC) Policy and assessment and internal moderation policies have been recently updated in order to provide protection to their students and staff.

Polytechnics and Private Training Providers that at present hold domain accreditation for Elementary Construction Skills will automatically receive accreditation to deliver the BCATS programme.

TEOs that do not have accreditation for the ECS domain and wish to deliver the qualifications will need to apply for a Letter of Recommendation from the BCITO to attach to their accreditation application to NZQA.

For further information relating to accreditation requirements please refer to the BCITO AMAP which can be located on the NQF - #048 or direct to Lesley Brittenden. Quality Assurance.

e-mail lesley.brittenden@bcito.org.nz

Resource Development

Another reminder (or perhaps now a plea) to all those people who are delivering interesting and exciting programmes and courses that as part of the BCATS resource package, we intend to also produce a teacher's manual. This manual will provide teachers with a comprehensive range of aids, projects and innovative ideas to assist in the delivery of the units in the BCATS programme.

There are some really great results flowing out of existing programmes run by schools and TEO's throughout the country. So if there is something special that is working for you and may benefit others, feel free to let us know and if it is appropriate, we'd love to include it in the manual.

Likewise, if you have some great projects (plans, drawings, specs, photos, descriptions etc), we'd also love to be able to include them and recognise those schools and students who submit them.

Draft Qualifications Matrix

Attached to this e-news is a pdf file of the two BCATS Qualifications. The reason they are still draft is not because there is to be any further consultation or review on them – but because they (along with a number of the final units involved) are yet to be submitted to NZQA.

We've tried to make it simple to understand – so the first two pages (outside the cover) are a very graphical representation of the Level One and Level Two qualifications – with reference only to unit standard (or achievement standard) numbers and the quantity of

various units that need to be selected as part of compulsory, core compulsory, elective and core elective sections. The third page is a consolidation of the two qualifications on the one page. Pages four, five and six itemise all the unit numbers (or codes) in the two qualifications and offer a “purpose statement” for the BCATS qualifications.

For all of you who have been waiting with baited breath to see the final structure – here it is! But remember, it is still a “draft” until such time as it has been registered on the NQF.

Well, this has been a long e-news – so please forgive us if it has been “information overload”. However, with the launch of BCATS creeping closer and closer, we’re very keen to make sure that everyone’s totally “in the loop”!

Les Wilson
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